

THE INDEPENDENT

INSIDE TODAY'S BROADSHEET REVIEW



Confessions
of a junkie
doctor



Sophie Dahl
answers your
questions



How I survived
Fred West

PLUS FASHION,
THEATRE, SECRETARIAL & FINANCE

Britain is failing us, say blacks

AN ALARMING gulf has emerged between black and white people in their perceptions of multi-cultural Britain.

A survey published today reveals that while whites are increasingly ready to embrace a multi-ethnic society, and believe that old prejudices are disappearing, four out of five young blacks feel that race relations are getting worse.

The report, by the University of Warwick's centre for research in ethnic relations, shows that black people are three times more likely than

BY IAN BURRELL
AND PAUL WAUGH

whites to believe that race relations are deteriorating. The findings are in stark contrast to a similar exercise conducted a generation ago, which found that ethnic minorities were far more optimistic than whites about future race relations in Britain.

Last night, the author of the report, Professor Muhammad Anwar, said second-generation blacks and Asians were more conscious of discrimina-

tion and less willing to tolerate it. The young people have had a British education and they are aware of how things happen. They have a more demanding attitude than their parents who had a mostly submissive attitude in general terms.

Chris Myant, of the Commission for Racial Equality, said the gulf between the views of black and white people on race relations was directly linked to discrimination in the job market and police stop-and-search tactics. He said: "There has been a decline in

prejudice on the part of the bulk of the population. But young black men, in particular, have a very hard time in the labour market, and they are more likely to be stopped by police. This is bound to increase their perception that race relations are not going to improve."

The Warwick report found that people aged between 18 and 24 were the most pessimistic, with 79 per cent of blacks, 50 per cent of Asians and 38 per cent of whites predicting that relations would get worse over the next five years.

In all age groups, whites had the most harmonious view, with 41 per cent saying race relations would get better over the next five years, and only 12 per cent believing they would deteriorate. Whites were less likely to acknowledge discrimination, with only 41 per cent saying ethnic minorities were comparatively worse off, compared to 65 per cent of blacks and 51 per cent of Asians.

The researchers also found that 29 per cent of Asians thought prejudice would increase, with only 21 per cent

believing it would diminish. Among black respondents, 35 per cent thought race relations were set to worsen, with 22 per cent saying they thought they would improve.

The picture is very different from that painted by a 1975 study, also involving Professor Anwar, which found that 44 per cent of ethnic minority respondents believed race relations were improving, compared to only 32 per cent of whites.

Leo Jasper, chair of Charter 88's Operation Black Vote campaign, which commissioned the

research, said the findings helped explain why 27 per cent of people from ethnic minorities did not appear on the electoral register. "Is it surprising that so many reject a system that often ignores black people's concerns and at times actually works against them?"

The Warwick report was based on over 1,400 face-to-face interviews with people in multi-racial inner-city areas.

It also examined the voting patterns of ethnic minorities in the last election and found that all parties had an interest in try-

ing to attract more black and Asian supporters. Although Labour had the most ethnic minority support, many Asians backed the Conservatives, with 61 per cent of Pakistanis in the Bradford West constituency voting Tory, and 60 per cent in Birmingham Edgbaston. But Professor Anwar noted that there were still only nine MPs from ethnic minority groups, and he added: "Equality of opportunity in the political process is crucial if we are to achieve equality in other fields." Pessimism growing, page 6

Real IRA ends its deadly campaign

THE REAL IRA, the group which killed 29 people in the Omagh bombing, yesterday bowed to the inevitable and announced the end of the short, but bloody, campaign of violence that ensured its name will forever be associated with the infamy of Omagh.

The news was welcomed in almost all quarters, though the British and Irish governments both declared that the move would not affect the intensive police investigation into the attack, which is under way on both sides of the border.

It was also made clear that anyone jailed in connection with the attack could not expect to benefit from the Good Friday Agreement's early prisoner-release scheme. The first inmates to be freed under the scheme will be out this week.

In Omagh, a Unionist councillor said the ceasefire was "music to my ears", while a nationalist representative added: "All I can say is thank God." Only one of the various republican and loyalist groups, the Continuity IRA, has yet to declare a ceasefire.

Although there is concern that some in the Real IRA's ranks might conceivably attempt to continue violence, the security assessment is that the seven members of its ruling "army council" and the organisation as a whole have genuinely decided to call it a day. The declaration had been expected for some time, following signs of disarray and even panic within the organisation, which was unprepared for the wave of public condemnation sparked off by the Omagh bomb.

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

The organisation faced huge challenges on three fronts. Firstly it was facing, and still faces, a determined push from the security forces to put its members behind bars, using the specially tailored laws approved by last week's special sessions of Westminster and the Dail.

Secondly, it was facing immense public disapproval. This manifested itself in the waiving of human rights concerns and approval of the new laws, with the overwhelming weight of opinion in both north and south supporting whatever was thought necessary to shut down the organisation and prevent more Omagh-style attacks.

Thirdly, the mainstream IRA appeared to be shaping up to move against the group. During a highly co-ordinated 90-minute period last week scores of Real IRA members and supporters were visited by IRA members who told them they were in violation of IRA rules. Some were reportedly told they would be shot if they continued their activities.

The man regarded as the Real IRA's leader, who lives in the Dundalk area of the Republic, was visited by a well-known senior IRA member from west Belfast who left him in no doubt of the fate that awaited his organisation if it persisted in its campaign. Regardless of the ceasefire, the authorities are pledged to keep after the Real IRA. Surveillance of suspects is said to have been particularly intense since Omagh.



A slogan on a gable wall in South Armagh, still read 'join the new IRA' yesterday, on the day the Real IRA called its ceasefire, three weeks after the Omagh bombing AP

Tory Euro-rebels accuse Hague of 'lacking vision'

TORY LEFT-WINGERS will open a new front in their battle with William Hague tomorrow by accusing him of failing to set out a clear vision of what the party stands for.

Stephen Dorrell, a former Cabinet minister, will tell a meeting of the Tory Reform Group that the party must urgently fill its "policy vacuum" and will not win the next general election merely by opposing Labour's actions. His move came as other pro-Europeans told Mr Hague that his decision to ballot party members on his policy on a single currency

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

would backfire and not end the party's civil war over Europe.

Mr Hague has deliberately avoided making policy commitments on grounds that voters are "not listening" to his party and intends to keep them to a minimum for another year. Mr Dorrell will argue that the Tories have not come to terms with the "seismic changes" caused by the global economy and the limited power of politicians to shape events. "Of course, the Conservative

Party has to oppose the Government, but it must also set out its own position and a vision of how it would shape society."

Last night Mr Dorrell said his speech was not an attack on Mr Hague. But it will not be welcomed by him as he tries to prevent his party's conference next month being dominated by internal disputes.

Yesterday Mr Hague told Tory pro-Europeans they would become isolated figures if they campaigned for Britain to join the single currency after the party ballot endorsed his policy of staying outside it in

this parliament and the next. They would be "on their own" and would get "short shrift" from the rest of the party.

Mr Hague, who plans 100 events during a three-week referendum campaign, told his Shadow Cabinet at a strategy session that a good majority was in the country's interests as well as the party's.

John Major rallied to Mr Hague: "We cannot afford a continuation of the disputes that crippled us..." But Chris Patten, former Hong Kong governor, said he would vote 'No'. Return to bonding, page 9

Turbo-charged tortoises overtaken by man

THEY WERE built for speed, moved in herds, and could reach up into trees for their food. They ruled their domain for millions of years.

Scientists are now piecing together the truth about the giant racing tortoises of the Mascarene Islands in the Indian Ocean, which became extinct 200 years after the arrival in the 16th century of the deadliest predator of all: humans. Early

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

accounts by explorers describe the animals, each about 2.5ft long, as being so plentiful that you "could walk for 300 yards on their backs without once touching the ground".

The arrival of the explorers spell the end for a group of animals that were, by tortoise standards, turbo-charged. They

had had millions of untrodden years in which they evolved paper-thin shells that left them up to 30kg (66lb) lighter, and much quicker, than their more conventional cousins.

They were not quick enough, however, to escape people, and the last racing tortoise was hunted and cooked in the early 1800s, ending perhaps 8 million years of an accidental experiment in evolution.

Because the islands - Mauritius, Reunion and Rodriguez - lie between 500 and 1,000 miles east of Madagascar, potential predators were never able to make the sea crossing. In fact, said Dr Jeremy Austin of the Natural History Museum, DNA taken from bones suggests that all three islands were seeded by a single pregnant female ancestor, probably swept off an African

beach by a big wave. "Tortoises can float rather like a coconut, and survive up to four months without eating or drinking anything," he told the British Association's Festival of Science in Cardiff yesterday. "The first tortoise must have been wandering on a beach, suddenly found it couldn't touch anything with its feet, and then just bobbed along, and along, until it washed up on another beach."



INSIDE
FULL CONTENTS
PAGE 2
TODAY'S TV
REVIEW, PAGE 20

HOME NEWS
An education chief has quit ahead of a government takeover of his authority
PAGE 4

HOME NEWS
A bogus doctor, who ruined lives with phoney diagnoses, was jailed for five years
PAGE 5

FOREIGN
Bill Clinton launched an attack against the inquiry that may lead to his impeachment
PAGE 13

BUSINESS
Sir David Rowland, the former Lloyd's of London chairman, is to chair NatWest
PAGE 14

SPORT
Paul Merson was transferred from Middlesbrough to Aston Villa for £8.8m
PAGE 26



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INDEX

HOME NEWS
PAGES 2-9

Boys lack gene to stop autism

Scientists may have found a genetic explanation for why boys are more likely to suffer from autism. Page 8

Failed rail firms to lose franchise

Rail operators who persistently let down their passengers will lose their franchises before they come up for renewal, John Prescott will announce soon. Page 9

FOREIGN NEWS
PAGES 11-13

Yeltsin fiddles as Russia panics

Boris Yeltsin wasted another day brooding over what to do next in his stand-off with parliament, as panic buying gathered momentum across the country. Page 11

Indonesian students bayoneted

Anti-government protesters were bayoneted during a battle between Indonesian troops and students demonstrating against the president, BJ Habibie. Page 12

BUSINESS NEWS
PAGES 14-19

Markets rally ahead of MPC vote

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee meets today to decide the next move on UK interest rates as markets rallied on the hope of lower US rates. Page 14

Rolls strike deal with US group

Rolls-Royce yesterday forged a ground-breaking deal to bring a rival US aero-engine manufacturer into its best-selling Trent engine programme. Page 15

SPORTS NEWS
PAGES 20-26

Dickie Bird umpires final match

Umpire Dickie Bird begins his final County Championship match today, after 28 years as an umpire, as Warwickshire meet Worcestershire at Headingley. Page 20

Manchester fans to voice protest

The Manchester United Independent Supporters' Association will distribute thousands of leaflets at the game against Charlton tonight to express their opposition to the mooted takeover by BSkyB. Page 26

WEDNESDAY REVIEW
20-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

Ken Livingstone

If we are going to change the voting system, let's get it right the first time, or the voters will lose patience. Page 3

Suzanne Moore

'The lust for softer, curvier forms may be described as feminised, but realists among us may note that it has nothing to do with the shapes of those other objects of desire - women's bodies.' Page 5

Letters	2	Money, finance	12-16
Leaders and comment	3-5	Listings	17-18
Obituaries	6-7	Games	19
Gazette	7	Radio, Satellite TV	19
Features	8-9	Concise crossword	19
Arts	10-11	Today's TV	20

Cryptic crossword, section one, page 26



Recycled paper made up 46.03% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997

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Future of United hangs in balance

THE ATTEMPT by BSkyB to take control of Manchester United was on a knife-edge last night as directors of the Premier League football club tried to squeeze a higher price out of Rupert Murdoch's television group.

Directors of both companies were yesterday locked in discussions for the second night running at the London offices of HSBC, the City investment bank which is advising the football club.

A group called Shareholders United Against Murdoch has been formed to fight the deal. It has pledged to write to the club's 15,000 individual shareholders, who own 23 per cent of the club.

The anti-Murdoch group has been set up by the author Michael Crick, the media consultant Richard Lander and advertising executives Richard Hytner and Ben Langdon.

Officials at the club are also bracing themselves for a demonstration of fan power at tonight's home game against Charlton Athletic.

The Football Task Force chairman David Mellor joined the condemnation. Speaking in a personal capacity, he said agreeing to the bid would be "an act of cardinal folly".

He said he had been watching "the struggle for the soul of Manchester United" with mounting concern. "Is this proud club with all its traditions just to be a pawn in a global

BY PETER THAL LARSEN AND ANDREW GARFIELD

media power-play by Rupert Murdoch, who hardly knows where Manchester is?"

BSkyB is understood to have made an offer of £575m, valuing each share at 221p. In an attempt to force a deal, the firm is also believed to have issued a deadline requiring the bid to be accepted last night.

But United's board, led by the chief executive Martin Edwards and chairman Sir Roland Smith, were holding out for a higher price. They believe other bidders will offer a higher price if BSkyB refuses to pay up. English National Investment Company, which controls 25 per cent of Glasgow Rangers and has stakes in a number of other European clubs, is weighing up a bid.

But industry analysts played down suggestions that another bidder could be found, and shares in the club dropped 6.5p to 200p as hopes of a bidding war faded. Investors were also discounting the likelihood that any bid would be investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Football analyst William Davies, from stockbrokers Albert E Sharp, said: "Even if BSkyB make a bid tomorrow it is likely to take several months before it is concluded. Speculators are not going to want to hang around for six months." Business, page 15



Paula Taylor, crowned Nurse of the Year at the ceremony where the 'supernurse' plan was unveiled. Rui Xavier

Supernurses 'will not solve NHS recruitment problems'

THE CREATION of a new grade of supernurse equivalent to a hospital medical consultant will not solve the NHS's recruitment problems, unions warned yesterday.

The announcement of plans for nurse consultants, who will have their own patients and run their own clinics, was made by Tony Blair as part of a drive to raise the profile of nursing. Speaking at the Nurse of the Year awards, the Prime Minister said the creation of the new

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

grade would help keep experienced nurses on the wards.

"Some nurses at a certain point in their career are happy to move into management. But many others, having acquired a wide range of skill and experience, want to progress but still retain direct day-to-day contact with patients - the reason why they came into nursing in the first place," he said.

The Royal College of Nursing said some senior nurse practitioners were already running their own clinics and operating lists, and argued that it was unclear what tasks the new consultants would take on. No details of the numbers to be created nor salary to be paid were available, the college said. Existing nurses can earn a maximum of £26,500 on the wards.

An RCN spokeswoman said: "We welcome this announce-

ment but a proper value needs to be put on all nurses. There are 8,000 vacancies and the recruitment problem needs addressing at every level."

Unison, the main NHS union, said it was delighted at the initiative to "smash the glass ceiling" which forced the best nurses out of nursing. But a spokesman warned: "The most persistent problems in the profession are low pay across the board and chronic staff shortages."

Public service 'demoralised' says union

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday came under attack from the Labour Party's biggest backer over its strategy towards the public sector.

Amid warnings of the growing possibility of industrial action, the 1.3m strong public service union, Unison, registered its "grave concern" over the Chancellor of the Exchequer's three-year austerity package.

Gordon Brown's requirement that pay increases should be self-financing would mean

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

deep cuts to jobs and services, according to leaders of the union's key committee dealing with Labour Party policy.

A motion drawn up yesterday to be tabled at the party's annual conference next month in Blackpool spoke of the "demoralisation" of public servants and their sense of unfairness.

Unison's strongly worded motion, which also accuses the

Government of ignoring Labour's election manifesto in critical areas of policy, will ensure that the assembly will not be as submissive as party managers would have hoped.

The proposition calls on the party to reconsider its policies on pay restraint in the public sector, especially as ministers have published a White Paper calling for the modernisation of local government.

Unison will urge ministers to recognise the "pressing and urgent need" for higher levels of

public spending to ensure high quality services.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of the union, has warned that his members will eventually resort to industrial action unless the Cabinet addresses the growing problems.

The resolution comes after a chorus of criticism of the Government from leaders of private sector unions over the need to boost manufacturing industry.

The Bank of England's mon-

etary policy committee, which meets today to set interest rates, has been warned by the Labour Party's biggest affiliates that it has "one last chance" to prove that it recognises the importance of the manufacturing sector. Pressure on the Prime Minister to intervene over the growing plight of manufacturing industry grew last week with the announcement of the closure of the Fujitsu electronics plant in Tony Blair's Sedgefield constituency with the loss of more than 600 jobs.

Margaret Hodge, employment minister, was yesterday accused of granting small firms a "licence to discriminate" against disabled people after she revealed plans for new legislation. The Royal National Institute for the Blind said that a law which would extend protection for disabled people from those working in companies of 20 or more, to those where the workforce was at least 15, did not go far enough. The measure will bring in another 45,000 firms and 750,000 people.

BRITAIN TODAY



FORECAST

General situation: Overnight rain will clear away eastwards. That will allow some brighter weather with feeble sun, although it will remain changeable and windy. There will be a lot of showers scattered around. Some of them giving heavy or prolonged downpours locally, with the threat of thunder or hail.

E & SE England, London, E Anglia: Heavy rain clearing but staying windy. Some sunny spells but sharp showers possible this evening. Fresh to strong south to south-west winds. Max temp 20-22C (68-72F).

Channel Is, Midlands, East S & NE England, Wales, Ulster: Windy. Occasional sunny spells, but heavy showers will break out later. Risk of hail or thunder. Fresh to strong south to south-west winds. Max temp 20-22C (68-72F).

Wales, SW, East S & NE England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: A mixture of brief sunny spells and heavy showers. Fresh to strong south to south-west winds. Max temp 18-19C (64-66F).

N Ireland, SW Scotland, Glasgow: A mixture of bright spells and heavy showers. Risk of thunder. Fresh southerly winds veering moderate south-west or westerly. Max temp 18-19C (64-66F).

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SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen: Rain clearing to leave sunny spells and scattered showers. Moderate to fresh south to south-east winds. Max temp 18-19C (64-66F).

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YESTERDAY

EXTREMES	
Winnipeg: Great Melt 23C (73F)	
Coldest (day): For 13C (55F)	
Winnipeg: Sharp 0.8C	
Sunniest: St David's 8.2 hrs	
For 24hrs to 2pm Tuesday	

LIGHTING UP	
Belfast	7.56pm to 6.47am
Birmingham	7.37pm to 6.33am
Bristol	7.39pm to 6.27am
Glasgow	7.51pm to 6.38am
London	7.30pm to 6.27am
Manchester	7.40pm to 6.33am
Newcastle	7.39pm to 6.23am

HIGH TIDES

London		10.0	Good	Newquay	7.6	0.05	21	n/a
S England		10.0	Good	Northwich	5.8	0.01	23	7.5
S Wales		10.0	Good	Oxford	7.0	0.02	22	7.2
S Scotland		10.0	Good	Pen-y-bont	7.0	0.01	21	7.0
S Ireland		10.0	Good	Salisbury	0.3	0.18	28	6.0
N England		10.0	Good	Scarborough	6.4	0.02	21	7.0
N Scotland		10.0	Good	Sharncliffe	5.0	0.01	21	7.0
N Ireland		10.0	Good	Southport	8.0	0.01	21	7.0
				Southport				n/a
				Southsea	7.5	0	21	7.0
				Swansea	7.0	0.09	20	6.8
				Tarbo	0.2	0.06	18	6.4
				Thrapsea	3.0	0.02	20	6.8
Sun times:		05:25						
Sun times:		19:30						

AIR QUALITY

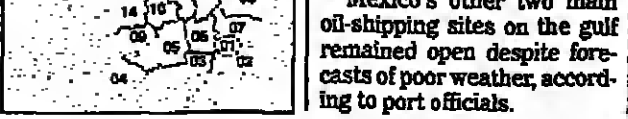
Today's readings	
Wales	Good
S England	Good
Wales	Good
C England	Good
N England	Good
Scotland	Good
Ireland	Good

SUN & MOON

Sun rises: 05:25	
Sun sets: 19:30	
Moon rises: 21:17	
Moon sets: 10:04	
Last quarter: Sept 13	

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial 6881 5000 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).



RAIN OR SHINE

AN OIL shipping port in Mexico was forced to close yesterday because of bad weather conditions.

Dos Bocas crude oil port in the Gulf of Mexico state of Tabasco had to be closed early after a heavy downpour of rain, an official from the harbour pilots' group said.

Mexico's other two main oil-shipping sites on the gulf remained open despite forecasts of poor weather, according to port officials.

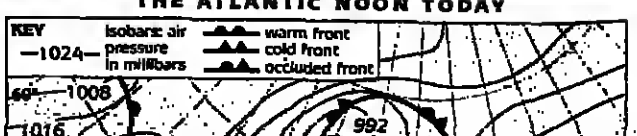
THE WORLD



EUROPE NOON TODAY



THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY



THE WORLD YESTERDAY

London: 15.0C (59.0F) High 16.0C (60.8F) Low 14.0C (57.2F) Wind: 10-15 mph (16-25 km/h) Direction: W-SW

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The \$14 million epic adventure to free Willy - into an unknown future

THE COST OF FREEING WILLY



Six trainers to manoeuvre Keiko on a stretcher from his pool in Newport, Oregon.



Crane to lift Keiko over wall of his tank into watertight fibreglass and steel box.



Truck to transport Keiko to Newport airport, along Highway 101, which will be closed to traffic.



C-17 to carry Keiko on 8-hour flight, costing \$600,000, to Vestmannaeyjar airport on the Vestmanna Islands off Iceland.



Plane will refuelled twice in mid-air.



On landing Keiko will be taken by truck to his \$12m sea pen to be looked after by an international staff of 30.

LOGO ILLUSTRATION: GUY WILKINS



Keiko comes face to face with one of the many admirers who visited him at his sanctuary in the Free Willy Keiko Foundation in Oregon last month

Akhtar Hussein

IN THE small Pacific fishing port of Newport, Oregon, a countdown has begun that is drawing more attention than a shuttle launch from Cape Canaveral. Blast-off is set for 1.15pm, local time, today. But it is not a space rocket they are sending up to the heavens, however. It is a killer whale.

We are talking, of course, about Keiko, the black and white Orca who first swam into our children's hearts in 1993 as the star of the wildlife weepy, *Free Willy*. Now, in a case of life imitating art, this 10,000lb hulk is being given the chance of freedom. Today an aquarium in Newport, tomorrow the chilly Atlantic waters of the Vestmanna Islands off Iceland.

What begins this afternoon is an experiment in maternal rehabilitation on a scale never before attempted. Depending on your point of view, it is either a testament to our new-found respect for our companion beasts on the planet or an absurd display of do-gooding sentimentality on which millions will be spent that might otherwise have gone towards other more urgent ecological causes. The scientific value of the exercise is expected to be minimal.

It is almost 20 years since Keiko, then a toddler among whales, was first captured off the Icelandic coast and doomed to a life shuttling between aquariums that brought him finally to a water park in Mexico City. There he was spotted by casting scouts from Warner Brothers films and picked for the film that made him famous

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

about a young boy, Jesse, who fights to save Willy from an owner who means to kill him for insurance money. The movie ends with him leaping a breakwater to the ocean.

It was after the film's box-office triumph that its irony became public. Unlike his character, Keiko was still stranded in Mexico in a tank that was too small and far too warm for him and in a deteriorating state of health. He had unsightly caruncles on his fins and could barely hold his breath under water. Then the Free Willy Keiko Foundation offered him sanctuary in Oregon.

That was in 1996. A \$7.2m, two-million-gallon, salt-water tank was built for Keiko, complete with a giant-screen colour television and all the fish he could eat. There, for two years, he has been pampered like a babe. Trainers have rubbed his tumoury on demand and crowds have been flocking to view his friendly frolics through windows in the tank.

The nurturing of Keiko has so far cost the foundation \$10m (\$6.1m), some of it vacuumed from the piggy banks of America's children, desperate to get one glimpse of their celluloid hero and to buy the souvenir flotsam he has spawned. One beneficiary has been Newport, which has been transformed from a creaking lumber and fishing town to a tourist destination. Nor has it been bad for Keiko. He has lost most of his

warts, caused by a virus, and put on 1,900 muscular pounds.

Now Newport must wave goodbye to Keiko. His incredible journey will begin this afternoon when he is rolled out to a canvas sling already attached to a scaffold next to his pool. From the sling he will be deposited inside a glass fibre and steel box, which will be lowered into a giant lorry. Next stop will be the local airport and an awaiting C-17 Air Force transport plane. He will then face a nine-hour flight to Iceland, with two inflight refuellings from an accompanying KC-10 tanker plane. On board, he will be repeatedly soaked in 40F fresh salt water. No movies, though.

Keiko's estimated time of arrival at Heimaey in the Vestmanna Islands is 8am tomorrow. There, everything will be ready. At a cost of another \$12m, a foot-

ball field-sized pen has been built in a bay with large mesh sides and a clear plastic bottom. With teams of veterinarians to watch over him, Keiko will call this home until the time for his release into the open ocean.

Whether that moment will in fact ever arrive is a matter for speculation. It is the best hope of the Keiko Foundation that over several months, its ward will adapt to life back in his natural habitat.

Once more he will experience the currents and noises of the ocean - including, it is assumed, the calls of his fellow killer whales - as well as to other ocean fauna that should swim through the holes in the mesh to join him.

But the risk of failure is considerable. What memories, if any, of living in the wild can Keiko have after two decades

WILLY ON THE INTERNET

Iceland Welcomes Keiko Back
<http://keiko.vestmannaeyjar.is/>
Free Willy Keiko Foundation is planning a live webcast of Keiko's move
<http://www.keiko.org/home/story/index.html>

of interacting with trainers and schoolchildren?

"If they end up letting him go, he'll have to adapt to a very different environment. He's not going to get his tumoury rubbed," said Brad Andrews, of the Sea World theme parks. "His skills are by no means what he'd need in the wild."

His trainers in Oregon have done their best to prepare him. Where once dead fish were simply dumped in Keiko's open mouth, recently he has been feeding on fish that are still wriggling. He has even shown

some ability in chasing fish left to swim in his tank. Even so, his rustiness as a hunter will be a particular worry if ever he is let go. Have his instincts as a killer whale stayed with him?

Another worry is his communications skills. For Keiko to survive, he will need to attach himself to a larger pod of whales coursing the Atlantic. But first he will need to locate other whales and befriend them. "Though we are hopeful, he may never find his family again. But when other killer whales migrate we hope they

will communicate and over time he may be adopted by a group," suggested Kim Wood, of the Born Free animal welfare charity.

Ken Balcomb, the director of the Center for Whale Research in Washington, has his doubts. "Keiko's been a big teddy bear all his life," he said this week. "He may be a winner in people's hearts, but to other whales he's a loser with a skin condition".

Even worse could happen. It has not escaped the attention of some that this animal, upon which so many millions have been expended, is hardly an adolescent.

Most Orcas survive to about 30 and Keiko, we know, must be 20 at least. The prospect must exist, therefore, that his Icelandic pen will turn out to be his retirement home and final rest-

ing place rather than a halfway house.

Nor, in the meantime, is everyone happy among the local Vestmanna fishing industry. Some experts warn that Keiko could become a local pest, scavenging fishing boats and ports for free meals. To Keiko, after all, boats and human equal lunch, not danger.

One local boat owner has already publicly threatened to do the beloved creature in by dumping poisoned fish into his pen.

Still, the folk at the Keiko Foundation cling on to their optimism.

"We've the world's attention. We're not going to take any shortcuts," insisted its spokesman, Jeff Foster. "We've planned for every contingency." Additional reporting by Fiona Bell

Tough in the wild for re-introduced captives

REINTRODUCING captive animals into the wild is not a simple or easy business, and may not be for Keiko, experts warned yesterday.

"People should not think that sudden freedom for a captive animal means what it would to a captive human," said Alexandra Dixon, London Zoo's leading reintroduction expert. "To an animal, it means it's suddenly got all the stresses of life in the wild directly on it. Life in the wild is tough. It means the animal has to fend for itself, and lunch is no longer at two o'clock unless it finds it."

Captive animals need long and careful preparation before release, and monitoring and

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

help afterwards if they are to survive, said Ms Dixon, director of field conservation and consultancy for the Zoological Society of London. And their chances are best if they are part of a social structure.

The zoo is involved in two successful reintroduction programmes, with sand gazelles in the Empty Quarter of Saudi Arabia, where they had become extinct 40 years ago, and with black and white ruffed lemurs, which are declining in their native Madagascar.

"There does need to be a great deal of preparation," Ms

Dixon said. "It doesn't need to be cost and labour-intensive. It's mainly thinking. What do we need to do to maximise the animal's chances in the wild? Some species need training, to avoid predators, for example."

The zoo deliberately created social groups of the gazelles before release. "Social structure is very important," Ms Dixon said. It is a concern shared by the British group which has been supporting the campaign to return Keiko to the wild, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society.

"Social structure among orcas is very flexible," said Fran Clarke, the group's campaigns co-ordinator.



Keiko, star of 'Free Willy' (top left), had a happier ending than the MGM lion, Leo, and other animal stars, such as the original Skipper and the original, male, Lassie

Sordid secrets of the animal media stars

NOT ALL animal film and TV stars get a happy ending. Leo, the MGM lion who roared at the opening of hundreds of movies, was dispatched to a zoo in old age and died within a year. Attempts were made to preserve the site of his grave as a place of historical interest, but he is now commemorated by a somewhat more ignominious car park.

And many have suffered for the sake of their art. Mark McManus, the late Scottish actor, once told of a disastrous early encounter with a kangaroo in the television series, *Skipper*. "One day for a scene they put Skipper up a

tree," he recalled. "No kangaroo is happy up a tree and Skipper panicked. He leapt off and killed himself."

Another loved character, Flipper, the dolphin, also had a less than happy time of it. Her former trainer, Richard O'Barry, revealed in 1993 that the dolphin, whose real name was Kathy, was stolen from her mother, dragged into a concrete pen and starved into performing her apparently cheery tricks.

In the end, she sank to the bottom of her pool, refused to breathe and had to be replaced. A further five each died in turn

of boredom and broken hearts. Perhaps the best-known Hollywood animal, the female Lassie, was actually a male called Pal, who wore a wig on his backside to hide his manhood. Five dogs played the role in seven films made between 1943 and 1951.

But it would be difficult to say what became of one of the latest animal film megastars - the pigs who played Babe. There were 48 of them.

One of Britain's own best loved pets, the original Peira, died within days of the dog's debut on the children's BBC television programme *Blue Peter*. An identical puppy was hastily purchased.

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Education chief quits after report

A DIRECTOR of education resigned yesterday as councillors tried to head off the first Government takeover of a failing local education authority.

Ian Jennings is to take early retirement "by mutual agreement" after a report on Calderdale, condemned two years ago for the collapse of discipline at the Riddings school, attacked senior managers' lack of vision and leadership.

Last month, inspectors savaged the Labour-run council for a second time in 18 months after they found that it was failing to raise standards.

Estelle Morris, the schools minister, said that efforts to improve education in Calderdale were being undermined by bad management and warned that it could lose control of its schools. She gave the council until Monday to draw up an ac-

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

tion plan. Legislation, passed this summer, allows the Government to take over failing local authorities.

A report prepared by consultants, called in by the council's chief executive and published yesterday, paints a picture of councillors who spend hours debating trivial issues and officers forced to attend so many meetings that they cannot get anything done.

Schools complain that they are treated with rudeness or indifference and their calls for help go unanswered.

The obsession with detailed interference in schools, says the report, "results in an out-dated and out-moded way of operating and exacerbates the frustration schools feel".

Many people believe, says Simon Jenkin, former chief education officer in Devon and co-author of the report, that councillors insist on so many meetings because they want to collect as much as possible from attendance allowances.

That perception may be unfair, he adds, but there should be changes in the way councillors are paid.

Mr Jenkin argues that "key senior staff lack any vision and sense of direction for the service... a picture emerges to us of a department which is unwilling to change".

His report questions whether Calderdale should continue to run its schools. Its failure, he warns, would affect every authority in the country.

A statement from the council said: "Ian Jennings has considered his position and it has

been agreed by all parties that it would be in the interests of the service that he take early retirement." The decision will be put to the education committee tomorrow.

Helen Rivron, education committee chair, said she was confident that the action plan would be accepted by ministers. Neil Fletcher, head of education at the Local Government Association, said: "There is still a mountain to climb for Calderdale in its bid to raise standards. Brave decisions must now be taken."

Another troubled council, Hackney in East London, has hired a private firm to help run a failing primary school. The Centre for British Teachers, a non-profit making company, has appointed a head for Ramsay Episcopal school. It will also advise the school on standards.



An assistant helps to place one of the art exhibits during preparations for the Native Nations exhibition, which is due to open at the Barbican Centre, in the City of London, tomorrow
Rui Xavier

Council promotes private schools

A LOCAL authority is sending parents of all 11-year-olds a brochure for nearby fee-paying schools that are in direct competition with its state schools.

Tory-controlled Wandsworth in south London, which is also sending out a guide to state schools in the borough, says it was forced to produce the in-

BY JUDITH JUDD

dependent schools' booklet because the Government has abolished the assisted places scheme. The guides are designed for pupils transferring to secondary school next autumn.

Last year, the council included the borough's two inde-

pendent schools in its guide with details of the scheme, which subsidised places for bright pupils in private schools. This year, it lists 10 private schools within striking distance of Wandsworth children in a brochure paid for by the schools.

Malcolm Grimston, chair of the education committee, said:

"It is the council's job to give parents the widest possible information on which to base this vitally important decision."

A National Union of Teachers spokesman said it was disappointing to find "an education authority which doesn't have sufficient confidence in its own schools to promote them solely".

Ferry firm to open 'booze hypermarkets'

THE FERRY operator P&O is to open three drinks hypermarkets in French ports to win a slice of the burgeoning cross-channel alcohol market.

The company wants to enter the £800m-a-year cross-channel market to offset the loss in duty-free sales from next year.

P&O sells more than £200m worth of duty-free goods a year on its ferries but it is set to lose most of that revenue when duty-free ends next June.

Day-trippers looking for cheap drink could be able to shop at P&O warehouses in Calais, Le Havre and Cherbourg from the middle of next year.

The move is set to trigger a battle with the retailers already operating in France, led by Eastenders, the huge Calais cash-and-carry outlet opened 10 years ago by Dave West, a former barrow boy. Tesco, Sains-

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

bury and Victoria Wine also have shops in the area.

The market for cheap overseas alcohol has grown at breakneck pace in the past few years and now accounts for around 15 per cent of all drink bought by Britons in off-licences and supermarkets. Beer tourism cost the Exchequer an estimated £150m a year in lost import duty, according to recent figures.

Graham Dunlop, chairman of P&O Ferries, said the company had identified three sites in the French towns near the boarding points for its ships and added that it was in discussion with the French authorities on building the warehouses.

Mr Dunlop said however that the company had to overcome objections of local shop-owners who sit on the local

chambers of commerce which own the land.

He said that shoppers with P&O would be able to phone through their orders days before their trip and collect them on their departure for England, a facility offered by few existing warehouses. The shops would have large car parks.

Mr West, the pioneer of cross-channel shopping, said he was not concerned by the P&O offensive. "It's very, very competitive over here," he said. "The mere fact that it is a P&O cash-and-carry is not going to convince people to go there without shopping around."

Mr West, who has built Eastenders into a £42m-a-year business, said that the transport giant would find it very difficult to make a profit on its sales as margins in the warehouse business were much lower than in duty-free sales.

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Bogus doctor who ruined lives is jailed

A BOGUS doctor, who made thousands of pounds and ruined hundreds of lives with his phoney diagnoses, was jailed for five years at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Godwin Onubogu, 57, was found guilty of a series of charges, including indecent assault, wounding, obtaining money by deception, supplying prescriptions and perverting the court of justice during two Old Bailey trials. Sentencing him, yesterday, Judge Gerald Gordon said: "Those who submit themselves to medical treatment have got to be protected against charlatans - that is what you are."

The "barely educated" laboratory technician was a one man medical crime wave, it was claimed. The sheer scale of the damage caused was such that Sir Kenneth Calman, the Government's Chief Medical Officer, was forced to issue an unprecedented alert for patients who had received his treatment.

Onubogu carried out HIV and cervical smear tests which were worthless and left patients without a proper course of treatment and at risk. He also appeared in court as an expert witness on behalf of those charged with drinking and driving, in return for fees of around £3,000 per case.

Following the appeal by Sir Kenneth the search began for up to 500 patients who had been given cervical smear and HIV tests by Onubogu. Further appeals from a number of health authorities asking anyone who had been treated by Onubogu to contact them. Around 100 did so, the rest still have not been traced.

A loophole in the law led to the Health and Safety Executive, the General Medical Council and the Royal College of Pathologists being frustrated in attempts to take any action against the Nigerian father-of-two. Onubogu, who came to

BY KIM SENGUPTA

Britain 31 years ago, claimed to have various qualifications, including a doctorate from the Columbia Pacific University awarded after a correspondence course. He also claimed to have worked at the London Chest Hospital and the Laboratory of London Chemists.

He falsely boasted that he had diagnosed that Kenny Everett, the late DJ, suffered from AIDS, and in one of the references he supplied for himself he wrote "Onubogu is an enigma whom we all admire and glorify". In reality his "medical



Godwin Onubogu

expertise" consisted of a stint as a laboratory technician at St Thomas' Hospital, in south London in the 1970s. His education was a handful of "O" levels and one year at Open University.

Onubogu started up with the Ikemam Laboratory in Balham High Road, south London, in the early 1980s. He was backed by the Wandsworth Enterprise Agency, set up by Wandsworth Council, who provided a grant. The opening ceremony was carried out by the then Mayor, Onubogu went on to run three other clinics.

In September 1992 police contacted Wandsworth Council

officials after hearing medical samples including blood, urine and tissues were being kept under dangerous conditions. But attempts to close it down failed. The council discovered there was nothing to stop anyone from setting themselves up in a laboratory and calling themselves a doctor, as long as they did not say they were registered.

His cases included one woman with sleeping difficulties who was charged £415 and told she must have contracted a sexual disease from her partner. The couple split up. A patient with a cut on his hand was told he had infected with a sexual disease by his wife. A couple who went to him with their children was told the whole family had venereal disease. The mother and father separated. A woman who told Onubogu that she was about to get married to her African fiancée was told she had given him gonorrhoea.

Many of the tests involved intimate physical examinations, over which Onubogu was charged with indecent assault. He is also alleged to have indecently assaulted a 15-year-old girl he examined.

Onubogu was discovered giving evidence as an expert witness for accused drink drivers at up to £3,000 a time. One of his favourite diagnoses was that the driver was "an unwilling victim of his aberrant biochemistry". Almost all of it was described at his subsequent Old Bailey trial as "nonsense, rubbish and lies".

Detectives took along a qualified chemist to the clinic and in his opinion none of the equipment was capable of analysing alcohol in blood or urine.

Further searches revealed the sheer extent of the misdiagnosis, non-existent or wrong treatment and the arbitrary doing out of prescription medicine being carried out by Onubogu.



The next Miss World will appear without make-up and wear a T-shirt and jeans, unlike her predecessors including Diana Hayden, the reigning Miss World (above), Kiki Haakansson, the first winner (top) and Giselle Laronde, the winner in 1986 (right)



Andrew Buurman

Miss World reconstructed for TV

HOW DO you counter accusations that Miss World is sexist and a cattle market?

The answer, apparently, is to show the girls without make-up and to reposition the contest as an exercise in girl power.

Street credibility is about to be given to one of the most politically incorrect of British traditions. The Miss World contest is likely to return to terrestrial television after years in exile, complete with rock music, trendy presenters and the most beautiful women in the world without their make-up.

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

In his 48th year of promoting the contest, Eric Morley, veteran impresario, has bowed to accusations that the contest is sexist and old fashioned and hired the producer of *The Dicks*, *The Pepsi Chart* and *The Three Tenors* concerts to bring the contest into the Nineties.

Malcolm Gerrie, head of the independent television company Initial TV, said yesterday the show would be back on British screens when it takes place in

the Seychelles in November. He said he was in discussion with two terrestrial broadcasters.

"I have been given complete freedom," he said. "I have insisted that the girls no longer wear national dress. I don't even know what the national dress of England is. I have insisted that we show them backstage, without make-up and actually doing activities and sports in T-shirts and jeans."

"I have insisted that we have access for the first time to the judges' meetings, so we can see what they look for in a girl. And

I will want colish presenters with a youth following, possibly someone like Chris Evans or Geri Halliwell."

He added that he wanted to get across the idea that Miss World was about "empowerment". The theory that the contest could be remoulded as a vestige of girl power was endorsed by his co-producer, Julie Cave.

She said: "I've had plenty of stick for taking on this job, especially from my friends. But I'm a girlie and I believe in a girlie's right to choose."

"And if her figure and her

face are her best assets then that's fine."

The show will be directed by Hamish Hamilton of MTV, the television music channel.

Though the contest has long been a dig in Britain, it remains one of the top-rated events worldwide with 1.4 billion viewers in 130 countries. In Latin America it gets a far bigger audience than the Oscars.

A spokesman for the Seychelles Tourist Board said that the contest would show that the Seychelles was interested in developing eco-tourism.

Drug offenders face DNA tests in crime crackdown

DNA SAMPLES are to be taken from all convicted drug dealers and users in one of Britain's largest police force areas.

In what is believed to be the first mass-testing of drug offenders, an estimated 1,500 profiles are expected to be added to the national DNA database during the next three months. The profiles will be checked against DNA samples taken from the scene of unsolved crimes to see if there is a link.

If the pilot programme, which begins in the West Mid-

lands in October, proves successful it is expected to be adopted by other police forces.

The initiative follows nationwide research earlier this year which found that more than 60 per cent of criminal suspects who agreed to be tested for illegal drugs proved positive.

Home Office figures suggest that a third of property crimes are carried out by drug users needing to fund their habit - an annual total of about

£25m. A typical heroin or crack cocaine addict is likely to steal property worth between £10,000 and £20,000 a year.

Research carried out by West Midlands Police, during a month in Solihull, revealed that half of 108 people arrested were regular heroin users. Between them they had accumulated property from thefts and burglaries worth £11m.

From next month anyone who is charged or cautioned in the West Midlands for possessing, dealing or transporting drugs will be added to the na-

tional database. Until now forces have tended to use DNA sampling for violent crimes, sexual offences and burglary. Tests are not routinely carried out for drug offences, partly because of the expense.

Detective Inspector Richard Leary, West Midlands scientific development officer, said: "After the trial is launched, anybody who is financing a drug habit or a drugs network through crime is liable to be linked, not only with a particular drugs crime, but also with other crimes used to finance their lifestyle."

IN BRIEF

GP remanded in custody on patient murder charge

DETECTIVES ARE investigating the deaths of 27 patients under the care of a doctor who was yesterday charged with murder Harold Shipman, 52, of Hyde, Greater Manchester, was remanded in custody until 15 September by Tameside magistrates. Ashton, charged with the murder of his patient, Kathleen Grundy 81, on 24 June, falsifying a £300,000 will, and forging documents.

Man dies while under police guard

AN INVESTIGATION began yesterday after a 44-year-old man died while being detained by police in a hospital. The unnamed man, from Bracknell, Berkshire, died at Wexham Park Hospital in Slough last Saturday. A police spokesman said officers had been called in after the man had reacted badly to being informed of an illness.

Robber's blast injures Britons

SIX BRITISH holiday-makers including a one-year-old baby were injured yesterday when a robber threw explosives at a bank in the Dutch ferry port of Hook. They were a couple in their 60s and a family of four. All were hit by flying glass but released from hospital after treatment.

Suicide most common in Scotland

PEOPLE in Scotland are more likely to kill themselves than those in other parts of Britain, and Manchester is the suicide capital of England, according to a report from the Office for National Statistics yesterday. Poorer areas have more suicides than others.

Woman stabbed to death in alley

A 21-YEAR-OLD woman was fatally stabbed in an alleyway on her way to work at a city centre bank yesterday. Police said Rukhsana Begum was killed less than 50 yards from her home in Handsworth, Birmingham, just after 8.15am. West Midlands police have appealed for witnesses.

Ivory box bought for £9 goes on sale for £300,000

A CARVED ivory box bought for £9 may fetch up to £300,000 at auction after it was recognised as 1,000 years old and one of the most significant Islamic discoveries for decades.

Only seven other dated examples of such ivory vessels are known to exist, and all are in museums.

Marcus Fraser, director of Sotheby's Islamic and Indian department, said: "This box is definitely one of the major Islamic discoveries in living memory."

"The astonishing quality, beauty, rarity and art-historical significance of this box make it one of the most outstanding Islamic works of art ever to come to auction."

Nicholas Shaw, an expert in the auction house's Islamic department, said he took a "sharp intake of breath" when he was first sent photographs by the curious owner.

"I could hardly believe it. Pieces such as these are so rare and I couldn't imagine that one could turn up in Yorkshire," said Mr Shaw. The vendor, who does not

wish to be named, had attended the sale where it was bought with his uncle in 1947, when he was 12.

It was part of a job lot with other ornamental items in the sale of contents of Hickleton Hall, near Doncaster - the former home of the first Earl of Halifax - and the uncle bid just £9-15-6d.

The current owner inherited the box when his uncle died, and kept it in the hall of his home in Yorkshire.

Intrigued by its history, he took it to experts at the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow* last year. They recommended he contact auctioneers.

The box is one of a small surviving group of vessels made in the late 10th and early 11th century to glorify the lifestyles of the great Muslim rulers in the Spanish city of Cordoba. They appear to have been made exclusively for the ruling family.

The box is a star lot in an auction on 15 October during Sotheby's Islamic week.

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Race relations: Pessimism among black Britons is growing in the shadow of the Stephen Lawrence murder inquiry

Blacks 'expect racism to get worse'

GEORGE MCPHERSON is no stranger to racial abuse. After arriving in Britain 50 years ago in the first wave of Jamaican immigrants, he was fully exposed to the prejudice of the more ignorant sections of the native population.

But he does not regret his decision to board the SS *Windrush* and make his life in the "mother country". Settled in Birmingham and married for 47 years to an English wife, he believes his proud Jamaican identity helped to protect him

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

from the bigots. "We knew where we came from. Whatever happened to us, whatever was said to us, we could think back in our hearts to our homes and our families. We knew who we were and we were proud of that knowledge," he said. "We were prepared to shrug off prejudice. We took a lot of hassle. Today's kids won't take that."

The level of discontent among second and third

generation Afro-Caribbeans was underlined yesterday by a new study, which found that 79 per cent of young blacks felt race relations in Britain would get worse in the next five years.

That is in stark contrast with the white community, which appears to be overcoming the concerns of a generation ago and accepting the idea of a multi-racial society.

Researchers from the University of Warwick found 41 per cent of whites thought race relations would improve over

HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

Race relations in the next five years (Age group 18-24)

Ethnic Group	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
White	16	38	39	7
Black	7	75	14	4
Asian	9	50	36	5
Other	5	57	33	9

the next five years, and only 12 per cent thought they would deteriorate. The gap of opinion

between black and white comes against the background of an inquiry into the death of Stephen Lawrence, the black teenager who was stabbed in a racial attack in 1993.

The inquiry has shone a spotlight on racial attitudes within the police service and exposed evidence of discrimination. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has said he was shocked to find that black people are up to eight times more likely to be stopped and searched by police than whites.

A report by Statewatch, a police research group, found that blacks were stopped at a rate of 155 per 1,000 compared with 34 for whites and 47 for Asians. In Merseyside, the number of black people stopped was 189 per 1,000. The greatest racial difference was in Surrey, where blacks were eight times more likely to be targeted. Mr Straw said the findings were "a matter of concern".

Despite a series of initiatives by the Home Office to combat racial crime, there has been no

impact on the number of race attacks during the past decade. In the past three years there have been 866 serious racial assaults, 482 arsons, five attempted murders and nine murders. At the same time, job opportunities for black workers - which improved between 1984 and 1990 - worsened again.

Yet Chris Myant of the Commission for Racial Equality said there was increasing harmony among younger people. He said: "Younger people are at home with a multi-racial society.

Their music, sport and cultural life is all multi-racial."

The Trinidad-born broadcaster Dariusz Howe said: "We feel much more at ease in this country. My younger children, now 12 and 13, are much more self-assured than their bigger brothers and sisters were at that age."

But Mr Howe said the future of race relations depended much on economic factors. He criticised findings based on the questioning of individuals as "vulgar speculation".

'It's a case of us and them'

CHERYL JONES, 19, is studying law at Downing College, Cambridge. She is optimistic about her own professional prospects, but said there was a noticeable difference in the way black and Asian people were perceived in the two areas in which she moved - and a noticeable difference in the prospects for improvements in race relations.

"I think my perception is that there is a difference between the ordinary person in the street and in academic and business circles," she said yesterday.

"Where I am at Cambridge in the academic and business circles, I definitely think it is getting better, racism is definitely going down. But for the ordinary person in the street the situation is not changing."

"I come from a reasonably poor area of Birmingham and the situation is still pretty much the same among white counterparts in the area that I live in. They are still quite racist."

Miss Jones believes the difference is down to class and education. "I would say it's an educational thing. But I think the boundaries are drawn much clearer in working-class districts. It tends to be very much an 'us-and-them' situation," she said.

"Whereas, when you get to the middle and upper classes



Cheryl Jones sees less racism at college than where she grew up. *Kalpesh Lathigra*

the opinions formed tend to be based more on what your academic ability is, what your business ability is, and race starts to matter a lot less."

While her white colleagues and lecturers were more articulate in describing and com-

ing to terms with the problem of racism, she said she felt it was only surface treatment, a veneer that needed to go deeper before the underlying problems were addressed.

Despite the apparent softening in establishment racist at-

titudes Miss Jones was concerned by the lack of representation of black, Asian and Chinese faces in the upper echelons of her chosen profession.

"It is noticeable that you don't see many, isn't it?" she said.

'Colour can be a help to me'

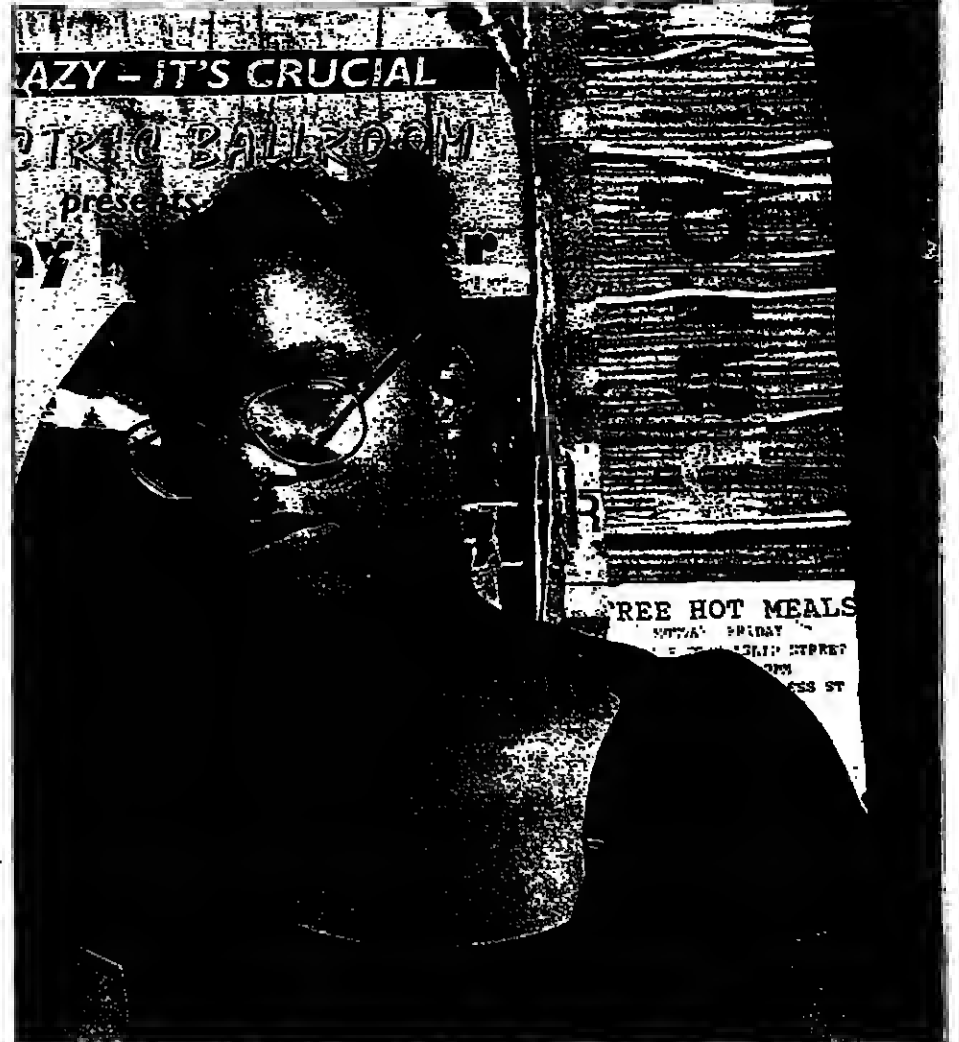
ESTHER LISK-CAREW, reading law with French at Liverpool University, says she is unconvinced by rhetoric that tells her black and white candidates have equal chances, despite her own bright future.

"In legal circles I have found conflicting messages," Ms Lisk-Carew, from Birmingham, said. "I found a lot of stereotyping when I went to do my work experience. I heard a lot of stories about black and Asian lawyers and how it is a lot harder for them to get work."

She acknowledged that there were attempts to overcome any potential discrimination. "I have been encouraged to join schemes set up to help Asian and African lawyers to get ahead and get advanced in areas like business," Ms Lisk-Carew, 19, said. Groups such as the Society of Asian Lawyers, a networking club, worked hard to place and promote Asians in the legal profession.

"I did take some encouragement from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, where I would like to work. They saw it as a positive aspect that I was a woman and that I was black."

Ms Lisk-Carew, whose family is from Sierra Leone, said: "I feel that as a young black person it is a lot more difficult to get away from the



Esther Lisk-Carew says many people face discrimination daily. *Kalpesh Lathigra*

barriers, primarily because you tend to be in 'a black community' where these barriers do raise their head more readily. People tend to stereotype groups and so membership of that group raises its own particular problems. As a group,

young black people are not necessarily being helped at all. In the Stephen Lawrence inquiry it became evident that he was seen typically as a young black man who could possibly be threatening, which is not the point because he was the one

who was the victim of crime. "Mostly the racism that occurs is something that I can ignore but there are a lot of people I know who suffer it on a daily basis."

CASE STUDIES
BY GARY FINN

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MP in sleaze case tells of 'knives in my back'

THE LABOUR Party tribunal investigating allegations of detrimental conduct by the suspended MP Tommy Graham began yesterday in an atmosphere of bitter recrimination.

Mr Graham, MP for West Renfrewshire, said there had been a systematic "conspiracy" against him, and added that if the National Constitutional Committee hearing expels him from the party he will continue to sit as an MP, working for his constituents and aiming to clear his name.

Mr Graham arrived for yesterday's hearing, at Keir Hardie House in Glasgow, proclaiming his innocence. "I've been waiting long enough for this," he said. "I am desperate to get in there and get the ball rolling."

"I'm now going to have my say for the first time in 12 months. I'm confident I'll get acquitted."

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

The MP said the past year had been the most "horrible" of his life, and claimed his critics were motivated by personal ambition, spite, animosity, and his "old Labour" image.

"I might not be the image they would like...," he said. "My back is full of knives. However, they will not remain there that long."

Mr Graham was suspended from Labour's parliamentary ranks last year after the suicide of the Paisley South MP Gordon McMaster, whose death brought out into the open years of acrimony and faction-fighting within Labour's ranks in Renfrewshire.

Although Mr Graham was cleared of allegations that he had smeared Mr McMaster, he went on to face accusations

of acting in a way prejudicial to Labour's interests, and the affair became the focus of damaging allegations of Labour "sleaze" in its urban Scottish heartland.

Yesterday's disciplinary hearing was held behind closed doors, with party officials refusing to give details of the five charges against Mr Graham.

They are believed to include an allegation about offering sexually compromising photographs of a trade union official in return for information, "bad mouthing" fellow MPs - including Irene Adams, the member for Paisley North - and a catch-all charge of acting in a way prejudicial to the party.

Party sources claimed last week that the case against Mr Graham was cast-iron and that he would become the first MP to be expelled by the Labour Party since the militants Dave

Nellist and Terry Field in 1991. But a dispute between potential witnesses and a feeling that the evidence might be rather thin caused some back-peddling yesterday, with speculation that Mr Graham's punishment - if he is found guilty - might be limited to a further short suspension. He has already been suspended since last August.

The tribunal is expected to announce its decision today. Whatever the verdict, the saga is likely to be a continuing embarrassment for Labour.

If Mr Graham is expelled, he intends to seek to overturn the decision through the civil courts and he will still remain a member of the House of Commons. If he is acquitted, or dealt with leniently, other MPs and senior figures in the Labour movement will have in effect been branded liars.

Forestry turns over a new leaf

THE FORESTRY Commission is to make a radical break with its past by cutting down 200,000 immature trees to create a nature reserve.

The commission will clear 300 acres of Corsican pines from Whitharrow, a fell in the Lake District, and return it to its former glory as a limestone grassland rich in rare flowers and butterflies.

It is a departure for a body that a decade ago was regularly accused of ruining the landscape by planting massed rows of dark conifers across Britain. But its remit has been broadened in recent years and now includes a duty to conservation and to the landscape as well as timber production.

Limestone grassland, which supports many rare plants and insects, is an internationally im-

portant habitat and Whitharrow is one of the best examples in Britain. It is home to uncommon flowers such as the limestone bedstraw and Britain's fastest-declining butterfly, the small pearl-bordered fritillary.

The felling will also remove the inappropriate "Mohican haircut" the trees appear to give the fell, which lies near Kendal and is visible from the main road into the Lake District from the south.

The pines are not ready for proper timber harvest and the commission, which planted them 30 years ago, will only cover its costs in felling them. Whitharrow is to be declared a National Nature Reserve at the end of this week.

VIAGRA CORNER

DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONTIERS OF MEDICINE

ADVERTISING watchdogs have launched a clampdown on companies advertising Viagra or products given a similar name, days before the drug is expected to be licensed in Britain.

A spokesman for the Advertising Standards Authority said: "Viagra has become the most written and talked about medicine for a long time. One inevitable result of this coverage is an advertising bandwagon, with companies clamouring to advertise Viagra or imitations of it."

One advertisement that is under investigation details the alleged virtues of a drug called Vigorex under the headline "Finally available in the UK. The potency pill that swept America".



That advertisement is the subject of an investigation, the spokesman said.

He added: "What we are doing is warning advertisers that if they try to pass off something as Viagra or try to sell it direct despite it not being licensed there will be problems."

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Gay newspaper to change its lifestyle

BY JANE ROBINS
Media Correspondent

THE *Pink Paper*, the only national weekly gay newspaper, is having a facelift to transform it from worthy political campaigner to trendy all-round magazine. But before the new look mag has even hit the streets, the change is causing controversy.

Its owner, Kelvin Solis, decided that 10 years of losses were enough: it was time to go commercial. But the decision has hit some of the oldest readers hard - they think it is deserting its serious political agenda.

David Northmore, a *Pink Paper* journalist, believes gay politics had overtaken the paper's agenda. "In the beginning we were coming from the perspective of a gay community on the outside of society screaming to be let in. Now we are practically part of the mainstream, and the paper needs to reflect that."

The problem was, says David Bridle, the paper's general manager, that young readers were turning their backs on it. He knew something was wrong when gay men and lesbians stopped using its lonely hearts phone lines.

The new *Pink Paper* will still carry hard-core gay news. But it will have a definite shift towards lighter, more popular features and lifestyle items.

Also, David Bridle says, it needs to win back lesbian readers. The paper had catered too much for the young men so valued by advertisers, he says, and now needs to redress that bias.

But the *Pink Paper*'s transformation has not come about without a fierce internal fight. Tim Teeman, the former editor, left the magazine after a falling out. At a leaving presentation he said that he had been treated as "beneath contempt", and was promptly escorted from the building.

Mr Bridle, who is responsible for balancing the books, says: "Teeman had a huge amount of independence and did a very good job. But he didn't want to sit down with the



Andrew Balkin, editor of the 'Pink Paper', surveys the latest pages of the magazine, which is being relaunched

Mark Chibbers

advertising department and the publisher and make sure the paper survived, to ask how the editorial content can bring in wider advertising."

Mr Teeman is concerned that the paper might now lose its "sophisticated" coverage of news and political issues, that it will go the way of the monthlies, which "believe that politics is a dirty word," and

whose news coverage he calls "appalling".

The comments reflect the way the gay publishing market has developed in recent years. Gay clubs and bars are full of free magazines that concentrate on the gay scene. Others, such as the *Pink Paper*'s sister paper, *Boyz*, and the relative newcomer *Attitude*, have a strong emphasis on celebrity in-

terviews, fashion and lifestyle. *Boyz* recently carried a cover of Lorraine Kelly, the GMTV presenter, and newly established gay icon, and a feature on Dame Edna Everage.

Boyz, which has until now subsidised the *Pink Paper*, says that some rivals in the market have made much of gay politics into a cult of victimhood. Colin Richardson, the deputy editor

of *Gay Times*, rejects the notion that discriminatory laws and attitudes persist. "It's an accusation bandied about by people who have abandoned political campaigns," he says.

The debate between the serious and frivolous ends of the gay mag market has a powerful echo in the United States. America's largest gay magazine, *Out*, has just imported

James Collard, a former editor of *Attitude*, to turn it into a more commercial product.

The controversy is just like that at the *Pink Paper*.

Mr Collard is praised by those who believe he is in touch with a younger, less agonised gay community. His detractors, in the meantime, accuse him of dumbing down and selling out.

THE GAY PRESS

PINK PAPER
Circulation 57,000. Free.
Started as a weekly community newspaper 10 years ago. It is picked up in clubs and bars by gays and lesbians in search of a serious dose of news. The paper has consistently broken gay stories, and gained a reputation for Westminster coverage. Now seen as a veteran campaigner for gay causes, and depending on your outlook, is on the point of becoming modern, or selling out.

GAY TIMES
Circulation 64,000. £2.50.
With 12 years of history, it is the oldest of the established gay papers, and promotes itself as the biggest-selling gay news magazine outside North America. A monthly with a mix of serious politics and lifestyle articles. Has taken up campaigns on the age of consent, and the activities of right-wing Christian fundamentalists. Is currently concerned about the rise of clergymen who claim they can "cure" people of their homosexuality.

BOYZ
Circulation 55,000. Free.
Covers the gay scene, comes out weekly, and is sister paper to the *Pink Paper*. Aimed at 18-35 year olds, it is escapist, fun-loving, and likes to celebrate the jolly side of being gay. "We point to the fact that we are a wonderful unique community. We should not have to conform to society's ideas of how we should be. We should not compromise," says editor David Hudson. For all its seven year history it has donated practically all of its profits to keeping the *Pink Paper* afloat.

ATTITUDE
Circulation 55,000. £2.50.
Up-front, in your face, scene and non-scene men's lifestyle magazine, more like *Arena* than the *Gay Times*. Launched four years ago and criticised by campaigners as being totally apolitical and dumbing down gay politics. "Unlike *Gay Times*, we don't cover things only because they are gay," says editor Paul Hunwick. So successful, that its former editor James Collard was headhunted by American market-leader *Out*.

DIVA
Circulation 35,000. £2.00.
Described by readers as "Cosmo meets Red meets Marie Claire". Founded four years ago, the only commercial lesbian magazine on the market. A glossy publication, concentrating on lifestyle, features and celebrity interviews, with the occasional political article. A world away from old feminist rags such as *Spare Rib* and *Every Woman*, both of which folded. Makes money, and in April went from bi-monthly to monthly.

Pop musician 'was set on fire' Britain tired and emotional

A TALENTED black pop musician who died after being found on fire in mysterious circumstances told his brother he had been torched by four youths, an inquest jury was told yesterday.

Michael Menson was found wandering naked and with horrific burns on the North Circular Road, north London, early on 28 January last year. He died in the burns unit at Billericay Hospital in Essex two weeks later.

Despite his family's insis-

BY SIMEON TEGEL

tence that he was the victim of a race attack, police have been unable to come up with any evidence about how his injuries were inflicted.

Yesterday, Hounslow coroner's court in north London heard that Mr Menson, a diagnosed schizophrenic who had five hit singles during the 1980s with the group Double Trouble, told his brother, Kwesi, that he

believed he had been attacked by the youths.

Mr Menson, 30, who had spoken from his hospital bed, had said the youths, aged about 16, had been on a 290 bus with him to Walthamstow.

He told his brother he got off the bus near a church. Kwesi Menson made a note of the bedside conversation, which was read out in court by Terry Mumford, counsel for the family.

It said: "I leant back on the

gates of a church and the next thing I knew I was on fire. I ran down the North Circular to a car and some people were standing."

Kwesi Menson insisted his brother was lucid at the time of the conversation despite his pain, mental illness and the pain-killing drugs he was on. "He was very alert and very aware of what was going on around him," he said.

The hearing continues today.

BRITAIN is a nation of insomniacs with two-thirds of the population claiming not to get enough sleep, says a survey.

One in five people say they suffer from a severe lack of sleep and 64 per cent say they could do with more. Only the Swedes complain more, with almost three-quarters claiming they do not spend enough time asleep in bed.

The findings, presented at the European Sleep Research

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

Society's meeting in Madrid yesterday, confirm that worrying about not getting enough sleep is a bigger problem than lack of sleep itself. Psychiatrists say that mood is as important as hours spent asleep in determining how people assess the quality of their time in bed.

Professor Ian Hindmarch, head of the psychopharmacol-

ogy research unit at the University of Surrey, said: "Insomnia is often a symptom of something else that is wrong, such as anxiety. The survey shows that people with severe insomnia have lived with the condition for up to 10 years."

The survey, commissioned by Rhone-Poulenc Rorez, manufacturers of sleeping pills, was conducted among 9,500 people in Germany, Belgium, Sweden, Britain and Ireland. The Ger-

mans were the most alert - less than half the population complained of sleeping difficulties.

Experts say that the pre-occupation with sleep loss is itself becoming a medical problem. The greatest enemy of sleep is worry about the lack of it. Most people who lose sleep will recover (it in 24 hours and be able to cope in the meantime. Overcoming the fear of not being able to cope is one way to conquer insomnia.

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British Association: Predisposition to social problems inherited; orgasms aid fertility; and 'phantom limb syndrome'

Boys lack gene to prevent autism

SCIENTISTS MAY have found a genetic explanation for why boys are four times more likely than girls to suffer from autism, a mental disorder that prevents children from forming normal social bonds with friends and relatives.

Girls appear to inherit a genetic predisposition from their fathers that protects them against autism, whereas boys are more vulnerable because they inherit the factor only from their mothers, whose protective genes are more likely to be switched off.

The research is part of a wider programme of work trying to explain why boys are much more likely than girls to suffer from a range of serious developmental problems involving social behaviour and language, such as autism and attention-deficit disorder.

"Even among normal children, girls generally outperform boys in those very same skills," said Professor David Skuse, of the Institute of Child Health in London.

"We have evidence for a genetic mechanism that could explain female superiority over males in some aspects of social intelligence."

"Boys are far more likely than girls to be socially maladjusted. Social skills are probably distributed as a 'bell curve' in the general population. We have found the curve is shifted to the left in boys, so there are relatively more boys than girls with poor skills."

Severe autism affects about four children in every 10,000, although, if milder autistic symptoms are included, the rate climbs to about one in every 1,000 children.

"The vulnerability of boys to

DEVELOPMENT

autism and other neuro-developmental disorders, all of which are associated with the impairment of social skills, has never been satisfactorily explained," Professor Skuse said. "We propose that there is a lower threshold of susceptibility in boys than girls."

Although boys are more affected than girls, there is no evidence that the genes that predispose to autism are carried on the X-chromosome, as they are with sex-linked disorders such as haemophilia, which usually affect boys but not girls.

Boys have only one X-chromosome, which they inherit from their mothers, whereas girls have two, one from each parent.

"The threshold hypothesis we are suggesting is that normal girls who carry their father's X-chromosome also have a protective factor on that chromosome that helps to prevent them from developing autism," Professor Skuse said.

"We believe it is an imprinted gene, which is switched off when inherited from one parent and switched on when inherited from the other."

"In this particular instance we are suggesting the gene is always switched on when it is transmitted by a father and always switched off when it is transmitted by a mother."

One possible explanation for why boys are more likely to be autistic is that it offered some evolutionary benefit in the past, Professor Skuse said. "It may be that to be slightly less socially responsive may have been an advantage to males."



A workshop at the Festival of Science, in Cardiff, demonstrating how a total eclipse of the Sun will occur on 11 August next year. Tom Pilstow

Joy of sex can help conception

GOOD NEWS and good sex increase the chances of a woman becoming pregnant, according to research into the effects of stress and sexual enjoyment on fertility.

Women whose IVF treatment is not going well might be more likely to become pregnant at the end of the course if they were spared the results of any tests undertaken during therapy. A separate study has found couples trying to have a baby might be more likely to succeed if women enjoy sex rather than seeing it as an experience that has to be endured as a means to an end.

FERTILITY

Scientists at Cardiff University's school of psychology said they found more sperm in the cervix of women who say they have good sex than in those who say they failed to achieve orgasm. Jacky Boivin, a psychologist from the university, said high numbers of sperm drawn into the cervix may be a factor that can significantly increase chances of conception in women who are not very fertile.

"In such couples, love-making frequently occurs under stressful conditions, as

it is determined by the fertile period rather than sexual desire," she said.

"Previous research demonstrated that generations of mothers have never experienced orgasm, which appears to prove that sexual pleasure is not related to the ability to conceive."

"However, this conclusion does not preclude the possibility that in some groups small effects may take on much greater significance," Dr Boivin said.

A group of 71 women with an average age of 30 took part in the study, which involved

asking them questions about their sexual enjoyment a few hours after intercourse.

This was done when they attended a clinic to have a post-coital test for the quality and quantity of sperm reaching the cervix.

"The findings suggest that the quality of women's sexual response may facilitate the migration of sperm from the vaginal pool to the cervical and uterine environment," Dr Boivin reported to the British Association.

Another study of 107 Cardiff women who had tried for at least seven years to

have babies and were undergoing IVF found that any bad news relayed to them by medical staff when tests were done after 30 days led to a greater risk of treatment failure.

Many doctors assume it is best to relay any negative results to patients during the course of IVF treatment, because it prepares them to accept that they may not become pregnant at the end of the cycle, but the Cardiff researchers found this did not make things any easier for the women if they remained childless.

Mirrors relieve pain of amputee

MIND OVER MATTER

MIRRORS ARE helping patients with amputated limbs to overcome the pain they can still feel in their lost arm or leg.

"Phantom limb syndrome" affects almost everyone who has lost a limb. The imagined limb often becomes painful when apparently distorted in a cramped position.

Professor Vilayanur Ramachandran, director of the centre for brain and cognition at the University of California, said mirrors were proving more effective than powerful pain-killing drugs at relieving the discomfort of the syndrome.

He places a mirror on the side of the lost limb and asks the patient to look at the reflection. "If they look inside the mirror they see the reflection of their normal hand and it looks as if you have given them their phantom back," he said.

Patients frequently complain that their phantom arm has become curled up into a painful position and Professor Ramachandran asks them to put their intact arm into the same position and then to uncurl it so that it becomes normal again.

"If the phantom is in a painful 'cramped' position, we find that merely viewing the reflection of the normal hand in a mirror causes the phantom hand to spring to life and start moving. For many the pain and cramping is instantly relieved."

Professor Ramachandran has also tried mirror therapy on "neglect syndrome" patients who have suffered a stroke or some sort of brain damage to one half of the brain, which causes them to be oblivious to one side of their visual field.

The mirror treatment could help scientists to unravel some of the complex mysteries of the brain, he said. "This has implications for understanding how the brain handles space and how we react to object in mirrors and how your beliefs about objects in the world are affected by this attention deficit."

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Fitness and good diet can stop your brain shrinking

EXERCISE FOR the heart may also prevent the onset of senile dementia in later life, according to scientists who have found that the same risk factors associated with a higher chance of cardiovascular disease could also cause a shrinking brain.

Patients with Alzheimer's disease show rapid shrinkage of the brain - 15 per cent a year - which is 10 times faster than occurs in normal ageing, and this might be exacerbated by poor blood flow to the brain.

Professor David Smith, the head of the department of pharmacology at Oxford University, said that people might be able to cut the chances of developing Alzheimer's in later life if they

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

took up regular exercise and a healthy diet. "Several established risk factors for vascular diseases, such as heart disease and stroke, might also be possible risk factors for Alzheimer's disease."

"The risk factors include atherosclerosis, smoking, high cholesterol, previous heart attacks and atrial fibrillation (heart flutter)," Professor Smith said.

"These epidemiological associations need to be confirmed in larger studies but, if they are confirmed, then they raise the hope that preventative medicine can be applied to Alzheimer's disease."

In Britain there are between

600,000 and 800,000 people who suffer from Alzheimer's, and this is expected to double within the next 30 years because of the ageing population, Professor Smith told the British Association.

If a poor blood flow to the brain is linked with an increase in the risk of brain shrinkage, it may be possible to concentrate on preventive strategies that can lower the incidence of Alzheimer's.

"People should be aware that Alzheimer's disease is not an inevitable part of ageing and that it might be modified by environmental factors."

"The striking success of preventative medicine, such as the cessation of smoking, lowering blood cholesterol and by

diet or changes in lifestyle in lowering the incidence of heart disease and stroke is one of the major achievements of modern medicine."

"If a proportion of those who develop Alzheimer's disease do so because of exposure to the same risk factors, then similar measures could be tested to see if they also reduce the incidence of Alzheimer's disease," Professor Smith said.

"Before any steps can be taken, it will be necessary to carry out long and expensive clinical trials in several thousand subjects to see whether modification of one or more of these risk factors can influence the development of dementia."

Unease at use of modified crops

BRITISH SCIENTISTS would oppose the cultivation of some genetically modified (GM) crops that have already been grown in the United States for four years, a senior government adviser said yesterday.

Professor Alan Gray, a member of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment, said that crops engineered to be resistant to attacking viruses could eventually lead to "superweeds" through the transfer of the resistance genes to wild plants.

His views reflect the gulf between the regulations in the US and Europe - but world trade rules could lead the US to insist that such crops are approved in Britain, despite scientific opposition.

The US approval covers a transgenic squash, a melon-like plant, developed by Upjohn Agrochemicals. It contains genes making it resistant to a virus that

GENETICS

infects watermelons and to another that attacks courgettes. It was passed for sale in 1994 because US government scientists assume that plant viruses, which attack leaves and roots, are particular to plant species and not weeds.

Such plants are a "second-generation" form of GM crop. Most of the "first generation" are resistant to artificial fertilisers rather than natural viruses.

But Professor Gray, based at the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, said that ecologists still knew too little about the effects of viruses on plants.

"Ecologists have neglected viruses because they're so hard to find and detect in plants. I don't think a UK regulatory committee would release a virus-resistant plant unless we really knew about the role of the virus," he said.

Magic chance to beat the sceptic

JAMES RANDI, the magician and scourge of the paranormal, has challenged 13 Britons to prove they have supernatural powers and win his prize of \$1m (£660,000).

Mr Randi, who has been a constant thorn in the side of Yuri Geller and others who claim extraordinary powers, said that 13 individuals from Britain are competing for the money he has offered to the first person demonstrating paranormal gifts under scientifically controlled conditions.

One man claims to be a human magnet who can pick up paperclips with his forehead, another says he can rewrite the works of Isaac Newton and a third is a woman who claims she can read other people's minds.

Mr Randi, who took part in a session at the British Association on the rise of the paranormal at the end of the millennium, said nobody had been able to convince him sci-

PARANORMAL POWER



James Randi: Certain he will keep his prize money

entifically of paranormal powers and he believes his money will be safe. "Geller says he does his spoon bending by divine means. I do it by tricks. If he's doing it by divine means then he's doing it the hard way," Mr Randi added.

REPORTS FROM CARDIFF BY STEVE CONNOR AND CHARLES ARTHUR

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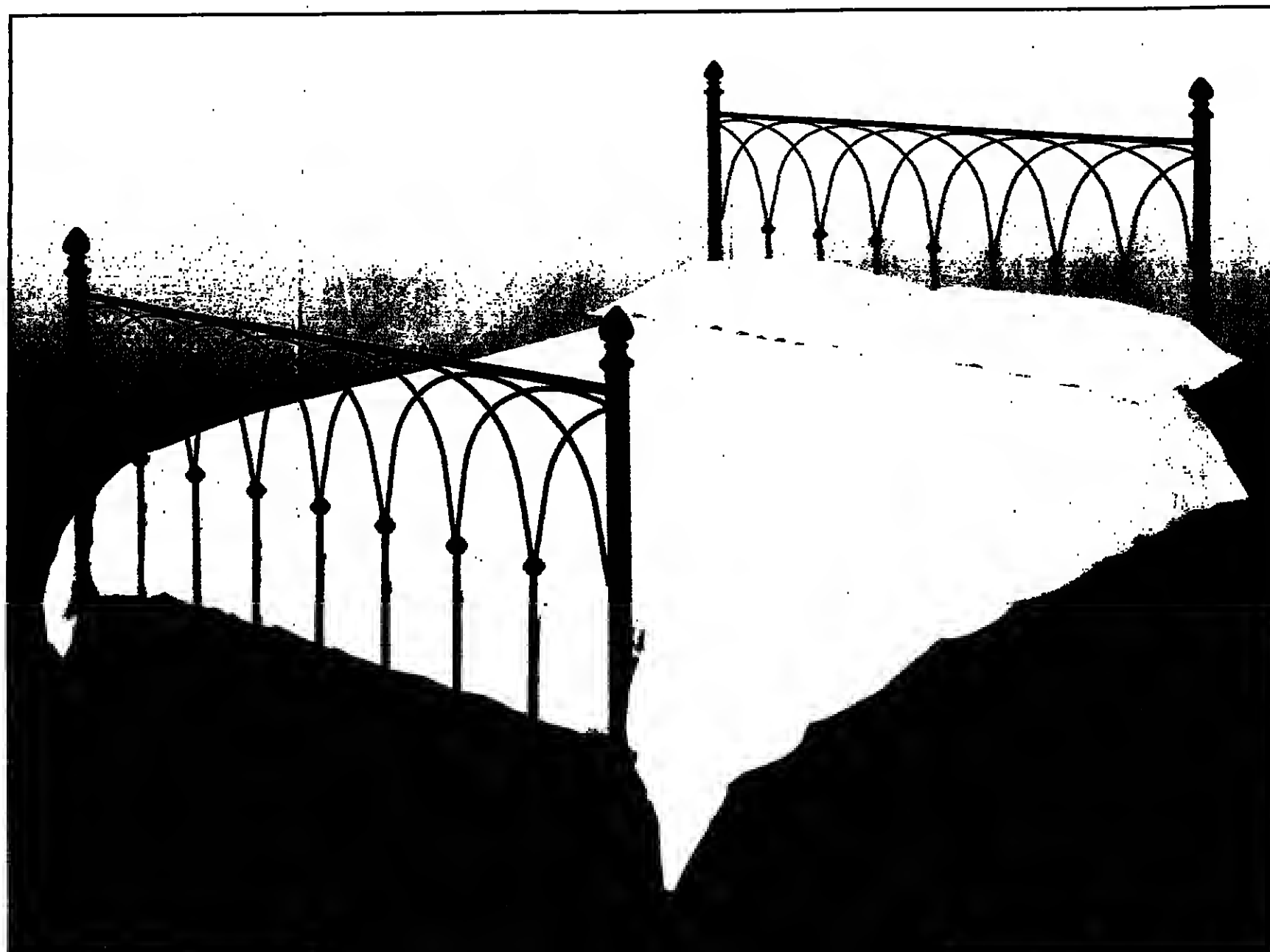
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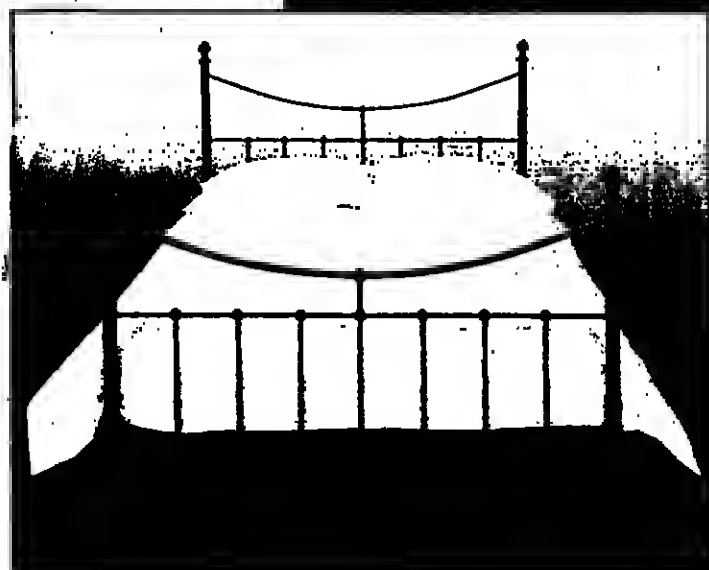
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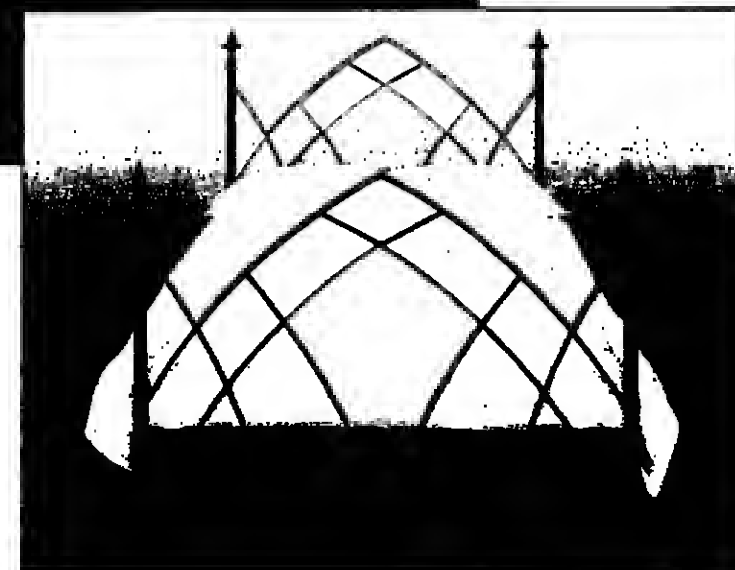
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Yeltsin fiddles as Russia broods

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin spent another day yesterday brooding over what to do next in his stand-off with parliament, as food and fuel shortages and panic-buying gathered momentum across the country.

Leaderless, bankrupt and bewildered, Russia waited for news of the President's plans, amid new warnings that deepening economic misery could turn into unrest.

The latest of these comes from the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Alexei II,

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow and
ANNA BAKHEN
in St Petersburg

who has consistently supported Mr Yeltsin, and the ruling elite of politicians and oligarchs that loosely coalesced around him during better days. "The worst thing that the current political crisis could bring is civil war, for surely blood always divides," the cleric said.

Similar fears were expressed by the head of the

Communists, Gennady Zyuganov, who warned that there could be a social explosion if Mr Yeltsin decides to nominate Viktor Chernomyrdin for a third, final time, after the premier's decisive rejection by the State Duma on Monday.

If Mr Chernomyrdin loses again, and the Duma is disbanded, then there would be trouble, he warned. "To disband the Duma means to disband the Russian Federation. I am afraid we will have uprisings throughout Russia."

Pressure is growing on Mr Yeltsin to abandon Mr Chernomyrdin, and nominate a compromise candidate, although there are signs that he may find it hard to recruit a leader who is both acceptable to the Duma and willing to grasp what amounts to a poisoned chalice.

The Communists and the liberal Yabloko party both would vote for Yevgeny Primakov, the foreign minister, but yesterday he issued a statement saying that he did not want the job. Similar sentiments came from

the other favourite, Yuri Luzhkov, the mayor of Moscow. As the deadlock drags on, shelves are emptying as Russians snap up survival food like flour, oil, butter, canned fish and sugar. There are shortages of petrol and imported goods.

Kaliningrad, between Poland and Lithuania, yesterday declared "a state of emergency" and announced that it would take responsibility for political and economic issues, although it toned this down after Moscow protested that it was illegal.

As Russia unravels, tragedy is interrupted by the bizarre. Overworked prosecutors in Moscow have been asking questions about the fate of a life-sized cake of Lenin, which was displayed at an art gallery, and eventually eaten by guests.

And spare a thought for the British - 139 British companies yesterday opened a trade fair in St Petersburg. "There is a market for everything, whether there is a crisis or not," said Dave Chapman, from the Gerome Group, a Derby-based

fabrics company. Although he had only one potential Russian customer, he said that he was "still optimistic".

Not so, Russian onlookers. Marina Grigoryeva, a 46-year-old paediatrician, said: "Do these people really think it is appropriate selling computers when all some people can afford with their monthly salaries is a pack of cigarettes?" Three weeks ago her monthly salary was worth £50; now it is worth only £11.

Leading article, Review, page 3

Potato crisis strains morale

BY HELEN WOMACK
in Moscow

"WE WILL survive as long as we have potatoes," is a belief to which long-suffering Russians hold. They were clinging to it last week as the rouble plunged, as queues outside banks and stores lengthened, as 19th-century institutions such as pawnshops came back into fashion. True, during the Second World War, starving people in Leningrad licked glue from wallpaper. But for Russians in peacetime, having potatoes has been the bottom line.

Now comes the bad news. On top of financial and political chaos, there is a crisis in the fields. August 1998 was an unusually rainy month and the potato harvest in European Russia is a disaster. If there is a point at which Russian patience expires, it might be here.

The road that runs out of Moscow southwest towards Ryazan is usually lined at this time of year with villagers selling potatoes from buckets. In the past two or three years, city-dwellers have got used to well-stocked if pricey shops and grown lazy at digging at their dachas or planted flowers there instead. They have known that they could always buy the staple potato from these small-borders.

But yesterday, on a glorious day of "women's summer", as Russians call the short period of bright weather that returns in September, the villagers were mostly sitting tight inside their fairy-tale wooden houses.

The peasant market at Nikitskoye, which should have been piled high with spuds, was selling nothing more than the last of the watermelons brought up from the south by Azeri traders. At Myachkovo, women were offering the district's sweet onions and Chinese-manufactured bath towels with the face of Leonardo DiCaprio. But again there were no potatoes, so vital because they can

be stored. At Bronitsa, I spotted an old man pulling a cart with two sacks of potatoes. But they were not for sale.

"I'm sorry, my dear," said Alexei Fyodorovich, "but these are for my family. It's been a bad summer for potatoes. They grow in very wet and they are rotting. These two sacks are dry enough to keep, though. This will be our food for winter."

In the fields nearby, people

were digging up potatoes but only for themselves.

"They're our one asset and even our little crop is bad because of the weather, because we have no fertiliser," said Valentina Sergeyevna, who used to work on the Path of Lenin collective farm and now in retirement tills her own small piece of land. Her seven-year-old granddaughter, Masha, squatted in a rut, missing

school because she did not have any shoes to wear.

A month before the onset of the Russian winter, however, one of the most disturbing sights was a sea of khaki tents down by the River Nishenka (Poor Woman) just outside Denezhnikova (Money) village. Muscovites have been worrying about a possible coup since there were reports of military movements in the Moscow re-

gion. Television calmed their fears by saying that conscripts were only helping the collective farmers to bring in the potato harvest. But the soldiers I found were picking potatoes and carrots for themselves.

Believe it or not, these men were from the elite Dzerzhinsky Division of Interior Ministry troops, who would be in the front line trying to restore law and order if food riots broke

out on the streets of Moscow.

"We have been given permission to root in these fields for our own stocks," said Mikhail Kravchuk, 20, who decided to stay on in the army as a contract officer after finishing his military service because there was no work for him in his native Perm. "The army is being cut back. Nobody owes a living any more. We have to look after ourselves."



Cadets from the Moscow Military Academy at a farm north of Moscow yesterday. They will collect carrots, beets and potatoes for 10 hours daily for the next month. AP

Truckers to gain 48-hour week as blockades bite

LORRY AND coach drivers are to win an average 48-hour working week as part of a package of Europe-wide measures that emerged as a protest by truckers disrupted continental ports and borders yesterday.

Drafts of a deal to extend the controversial Working Time Directive to 3.5 million drivers also meets key trade-union demands by including tasks such

as loading, cleaning and maintaining vehicles, and conducting safety checks, within the 48-hour limit. The drivers will gain a guaranteed minimum of four weeks' annual holiday.

News of the impending agreement angered the Road Haulage Association, which called on the European Commission not to "cave in to the industrial action".

The biggest demonstrations were in France and, while they did not match the blockades of the past two winters, there were big tail-backs of lorries on the Spanish, Italian, Belgian and Luxembourg borders.

Cross-Channel traffic was relatively unscathed. French lorry drivers handed out leaflets in Calais but made no attempt to block the Channel Tunnel terminal or ports.

There were "filter barriers" to stop truck traffic and slow cars, at exits from the ports of Dieppe and Ostend, in Normandy; 400 trucks were reported to be queuing, or parked

in support of the day of action, on the French side of the Mont Blanc tunnel. At Biscuit, on the Franco-Spanish border, a French driver prevented from driving into Spain, swung his truck across the road and a six-mile jam built before the road was cleared. Traffic on roads within France was normal.

Transport workers and junior hospital doctors have been

exempt from the 48-hour week affecting most other workers. But on 16 September employers and unions hope to agree a deal, which will be the basis of a European directive laying down conditions in EU countries. Yesterday the European Commission said that if the two sides fail to agree, it will bring forward its own proposals, along similar lines, by 30 Sep-

tember. That alarmed some British employers who claim they already face high fuel and excise costs and want new measures to stop continental truck drivers from blockading ports.

Last night the Road Haulage Association said it would "be concerned at measures which reduce further the flexibility of the industry".

IN BRIEF

UN chief sees the official China

THE UNITED NATIONS High Commissioner for Human Rights had said she wanted to meet a "wide range" of Chinese on her 10-day visit to China, but an official suggested yesterday that Mary Robinson was unlikely to see any dissidents. On the third day of her trip, Ms Robinson met members of the women's federation and the official in charge of policy towards ethnic minorities. The foreign ministry spokesman, Zhu Bangzao, said Ms Robinson would go on to meet officials, government-backed groups and academics, and travel to Tibet and Shanghai.

Congo peace talks derailed

CONGO PEACE talks attended by seven African presidents were derailed when rebels stormed out of the meeting at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, complaining they had been snubbed and mistreated. A draft of a ceasefire pact that the presidents had been expected to sign was withdrawn as the leaders bickered over treatment of the rebels.

Fourteen hurt in Macau bombs

BOMBS BLAMED on gangsters exploded yesterday in the Portuguese enclave of Macau, wounding four senior police officers and ten journalists. The two bomb blasts were the worst in recent years, and the first to involve journalists.

Nigeria frees 20 Ogoni activists

A NIGERIAN court in the city of Port Harcourt has freed 20 Ogoni activists detained since 1994 on charges of murdering four pro-government chiefs. The youths, freed on Monday, faced the same charge for which the author Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others were executed in 1995.

PAUL SPIKE

"If the Republicans reclaim the White House in 2000, I suspect Blair's 'I'm sorry' will be answered with a very cold 'Excuse me'"

—WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4—

Jobless blow to Kohl campaign

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

UNLESS HE wins the elections at the end of the month, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's promise to bring German unemployment below 4 million will not be realised. Yesterday was his last chance, with the publication of figures for August, and he was 95,000 over the limit.

There was, however, a fall in the last summer month, and the Chancellor saw in this the vindication of his policies. "The positive development has stabilised," he said. "I expect that in the coming month the number of unemployed will be below 4 million and in the full year we will have fewer people out of work than in 1997."

That would no doubt be hailed as a great achievement, although perhaps not as sweeping as he had anticipated. There was a point in his current term of office when Mr Kohl had promised to halve the number of jobless by the year 2000. Since then he has proceeded nearly to double it.

Unfortunately for Mr Kohl, all his undoubted successes are seen in the light of the various promises he has made during his long career.

The economy is powering



Kohl: Promises, promises

ahead, the number of jobless has fallen for eight months in succession in the west, and for three months in a row in the east. But some of these new jobs can all too directly be credited to the Chancellor and his election campaign. Vast sums have been pumped into make-work schemes in recent months in a frantic effort to get below the magic 4 million.

As Bernhard Jagoda, the head of the Federal Labour Office, put it: "The situation has improved slightly but the recent increase in employment in the east is attributed to the unusually strong expansion of job-creation schemes."

Judge suspended for exposing corruption

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

A STATE prosecutor and two senior detectives have been suspended and placed under investigation in Toulon.

Their alleged crime? To have leaked to the press details of investigations of corruption among local politicians, including officials at the National Front-controlled town hall.

Their real crime? To have challenged the cosy relationships between politicians (of left, right and far-right), organised crime and the judiciary - which have made the Toulon area a byword for intrigue and corruption.

There seems little doubt that Judge Albert Lévy, substitute chief prosecutor in Toulon, is technically guilty. He was the subject of a six-month investigation by his own colleagues - using bugging devices and concealed body microphones - to prove that he was leaking details of his cases to the press.

Leaking information on a criminal investigation is a serious offence, but one committed by nearly all publicity-conscious prosecutors and investigating judges in France. If the law was to be applied uniformly, awkward questions would have to be asked of scores

of magistrates all over the country, including those in charge of the year-old investigation of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

A book by two French journalists quotes verbatim from witness statements made to Judge Hervé Stéphan, the man in charge of the Diana inquiry. No official action was taken.

This is precisely the accusation made against Mr Lévy: the leaking of witness statements to a local journalist, Claude Ardid, who has also been placed under investigation. The investigating judge brought in from Paris to examine the evidence even accused Mr Lévy of being mentally unstable because he "saw fascists everywhere in Toulon".

Mr Lévy's imagination may not be so fevered as all that: Toulon is one of five towns controlled by the far-right National Front, and has long had a reputation as one of the most racially intolerant towns in France.

The accused judge's lawyer, Alain Jakubowicz, said the case was "pure delirium". A com-

plete injustice. Even if the facts are proven, everyone knows that witness statements circulate everywhere... This is a settling of scores."

Mr Lévy, a brisk-looking man with metal-rimmed spectacles and a neat moustache, had made several attacks on what he called the "mafia politicians" of the Toulon area. He was especially hostile to the National Front. But he also criticised the passivity of his own colleagues, especially what he called the "nonchalance" of the judicial investigation into the murder of a local MP Yann Piat.

The National Front MP who defected to the centre-right, was shot while investigating links between politics and crime. A gang of local hoodlums was convicted of her murder this year, but it remains open to question whether gang members could have acted alone.

The information leaked to Mr Ardid concerned alleged kick-backs to Toulon town hall for the letting of contracts for school meals. The journalist published a verbatim account of the evidence given to Mr Lévy by Serge Catalano, a local businessman and former president of the town's football club.

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Amnesty condemns Israelis and Palestinians for rights abuses

Bayonet attack on Jakarta students

BY ROBERT FISK
in Beirut

TORTURE AND death in custody, arbitrary arrest and detention without trial, executions and unfair trials by both Israelis and Palestinians: five years after the Oslo Agreement, could there be a more wretched indictment of the "peace" between Israel and the PLO than the report Amnesty International publishes this morning?

So rapidly are human rights being sacrificed in Israel and the West Bank - in the hopeless search for a "security" that cannot be guaranteed by policemen - that the report was too late to record the most recent atrocities: two Palestinians shot by a PLO firing squad for murder last week, and the apparent beating to death by Yasser Arafat's henchmen of Hussein Ghali, who called at a Gaza police station to make a complaint. But it is impossible to deny Amnesty's plague-on-both-the-houses catalogue of abuse - or its implications.

"In a spiral of violence," the report states, "killings of Palestinians by Israeli security services or settlers have led to suicide bombings and the deaths of Israeli civilians. These have led to waves of arbitrary arrests, incommunicado detention, torture and unfair trials. The Palestine population have been the main victims of such violations ... the Occupied Territories have become a land of barriers, mostly erected by Israeli security services, between town and town and village and village ... The protection of human rights, Amnesty concludes, must be at the heart of all future policies and accords."

Some hope. As Amnesty admits, the five years since Oslo have been marked by a great increase in the number of Israeli civilians killed by armed Palestinian groups - more than 100 Israelis have died in suicide attacks, and more than 45



A pressure group in Jerusalem uses an Israeli actor to show the "shabeh" torture method reportedly used by Israeli security forces. AP

Palestinian civilians have been killed by Israeli civilians, some of them members of the violent Jewish Kach movement. After handing over to the Palestinian authority detention centres in the centre of West Bank cities - where the PLO now uses the same tortures against its own civilians that the Israelis used before the withdrawal - Israel has now built new prisons in West Bank areas still under occupation, at Beit El Majnuna and Dotan.

Methods of torture by the Israelis include shabeh (sleep

deprivation while shackled in painful positions and hooding), gambaz (being forced to squat for more than two hours), tilbul (violent shaking that has already killed one Palestinian prisoner) and khazana (imprisonment in a closet). Other methods, according to Amnesty, include beatings, pressure on genitals and exposure to heat and cold.

"There is general acceptance by the international community that Israel has effectively legalised the use of torture."

Torture by Yasser Arafat's Palestinian authority includes beatings, suspension from the wrists, burning with electricity and cigarettes as well as tortures learnt from the Israelis - shabeh and exposure. The report says that 19 have died in Palestinian custody since Oslo - 20 if the weekend's killing is included. Most of them appear to have died during or after torture. "Security" detainees, suspected collaborators and those who have sold land to Jews appear to be routinely tortured. Arbitrary arrests by the

Palestinian authority - monitored by a CIA Israeli team (although Amnesty does not mention this) and applauded by the US State Department - have led to grossly unfair trials; a Palestinian State Security Court has undermined civil courts, and human rights activists are now brought before the former.

Extrajudicial killings by Israel include Hani Abed, a Hamas leader suspected of killing two Israeli soldiers, who was blown up in a Gaza car bomb; Fathi Shikaki, the

Islamic Jihad leader shot dead in Malta; and Yahya Lyash, a presumed Hamas bomb maker, killed by a booby-trapped mobile telephone. Amnesty also refers to the Israeli attempt to murder a Hamas leader in Jordan by injecting his ear with poison.

Killings by Israelis include the death of Ali Jawarish, an eight-year-old boy, in 1997. Amnesty quotes an American reporter who saw Israeli troops fire at the boy during a demonstration. "I saw ... a wound on the right side of the forehead

and a lot of blood flow," he wrote. "Later the doctors at Mugassad Hospital and at Beit Jala told me that the child's brain had split out."

Two members of the Islamic Jihad, Ayman Razaina and Imad al-Araj, were shot dead by Palestinian police: Palestinians selling land to Israelis have been tortured to death. Ferid Bashtiti was found dead in Ramallah with his hands tied behind his back last year; a few days later, the body of another land dealer, Harbi Abu Sara, was found with bullet wounds in the head.

Carefully putting quotation marks around the word "terrorism" and "peace" - presumably because Israeli terrorists are never called terrorists, thus making the word both racist and anti-Arab - Amnesty appeals to the world to put an end to the torture and killings.

"The acceptance by the international community of 'peace' at any price, or of a security-led agenda involving the suppression of terrorism without regard for human rights, has often encouraged violations, and the international community have a crucial role to play in achieving respect for human rights by refusing to accept these violations."

Amnesty concludes its damning report with a demand that Israelis and Palestinians should bring detainees before fair courts, end imprisonment without trial, revoke all legislation permitting torture, end judicial killings and draw up clear firearm guidelines. Foreign governments, Amnesty says, should "use their influence" to secure the implementation of these recommendations. Since no government is prepared to put pressure on Israel and since the Palestinian authority pays little heed to such appeals, it is a fair bet that Amnesty will be publishing another equally horrific report in the near future.

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
in Tokyo

ANTI-GOVERNMENT protesters were bayoneted early yesterday during a battle with Indonesian troops at the national parliament.

A military spokesman denied that soldiers or riot police were responsible for the bayonet attacks, but hospitals in Jakarta confirmed that two students had had emergency surgery after several hundred were evicted from the grounds of the parliament building, which they had occupied on Monday night.

It was the latest outbreak of violence in the world's fourth-biggest country, whose economy appears to be collapsing despite the support of the International Monetary Fund.

The protesters demanded the departure of the president, B.J. Habibie, for his failure to control rising food prices and his reluctance to sweep away the authoritarian apparatus of his predecessor, President Suharto. He resigned in May after a week-long occupation of the parliament buildings.

The students want Mr Suharto tried for allegedly embezzling billions of dollars of state funds, a charge he denied in a rare TV interview this week.

On Monday afternoon, more than a thousand students had marched on the parliament buildings and broken down the gates to the compound. About 300 remained until the early hours, chanting slogans, even after troops and riot police ordered them to disperse. The injuries appear to have been inflicted at about 1.30am when the security forces fired tear gas on to the crowd and drove them out of the grounds.

Mr Habibie warned of more turmoil unless the economic problems were quickly solved. "Social unrest will prevail," he said. "Crime will rise ... the chance of human rights abuses taking place will surely be bigger."

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BRIEFING

G7 meeting likely to be postponed

THE PLANNED London meeting of G7 finance ministry officials to discuss the fall-out from the Russian crisis is likely to be postponed until Monday, according to a government official. The official said a number of countries were experiencing "logistical problems" with the proposed meeting on Saturday, called to discuss recent economic developments.

"It now looks as if the meeting will go ahead on Monday, although Saturday remains a possibility", a spokesman said. He added that a final decision will be made by today. The meeting takes place ahead of the International Monetary Fund's annual meeting in Washington next month, where Chancellor Gordon Brown (left) will play a key part in the debate over how the rich Western nations should react to the Russian crisis.



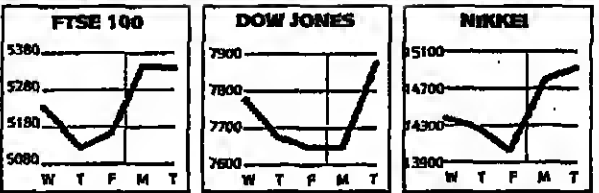
Charter shares plunge

SHARES OF Charter the engineering group plunged 13 per cent to 463.5p, yesterday after analysts sharply downgraded profit forecasts for the full year. They now forecast a drop of 5-10 per cent to less than £90m. Turnover in the six months to 30 June was up 25 per cent in the six months to 30 June, and profits from the core welding and railtrack businesses were up 5 per cent. But net interest on the £378m Charter paid for Howden the air and gas engineers last year more than offset increased earnings, and pre-tax profits fell by 10 per cent to £44.7m, including a £3.2m hit from the strength of sterling. Chairman Nigel Smith remains optimistic about the second half when Howden should contribute strongly, but the company has substantial activities in Southeast Asia to support.

Diageo pays \$178m for Heinz unit

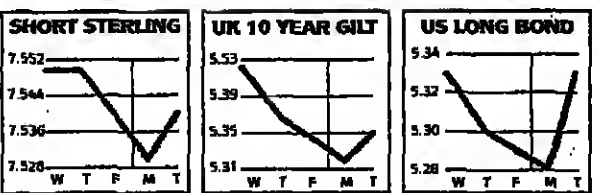
DIAGEO, the food and drinks group is paying \$178m for the bakery products division of food group H.J. Heinz. The deal is being conducted through Diageo's Pillsbury subsidiary which includes the Green Giant and Old El Paso brands. Heinz Bakery has a turnover of \$200 million and specialises in frozen unbaked bagels and frozen unbaked bread dough. Heinz yesterday reported first quarter operating income of \$218m on sales of \$2.5bn. Operating income was reduced by \$14m due to currency effects.

STOCK MARKETS



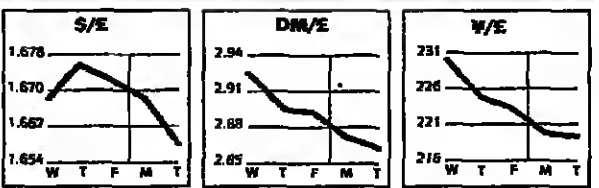
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk High	52 wk Low	Vol
FTSE 100	5344.20	-2.80	-0.05	6183.70	4382.80	3.63
FTSE 250	4804.50	57.40	1.21	5970.50	4428.30	4.29
FTSE 350	2554.20	4.30	0.17	2969.10	2141.80	3.75
FTSE All Share	2475.21	5.02	0.20	2886.52	2106.59	3.76
FTSE SmallCap	2102.20	17.30	0.83	2753.80	2044.80	3.93
FTSE Fledgling	1173.30	8.10	0.70	1517.10	1140.20	4.30
FTSE AIM	881.20	-1.50	-0.17	1146.50	862.80	1.44
FTSE ERM100	531.65	25.20	4.97	637.80	497.32	1.89
Dow Jones	7864.82	228.37	2.99	9367.84	6971.32	1.89
Nikkei	14913.49	123.43	0.84	16775.08	13664.74	1.02
Hang Seng	8189.25	112.49	1.39	15242.65	6544.79	5.01
Dax	5103.84	180.47	3.67	6217.83	3487.24	3.15

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	Long bond	Yr. chg.
UK	7.56	0.25	7.31	-0.25	-	-	5.35	-1.59	5.05	-1.85
US	5.59	-0.13	5.47	-0.59	-	-	5.02	-1.30	5.33	-1.28
Japan	0.62	0.05	0.61	-0.04	-	-	1.50	-0.92	1.88	-1.02
Germany	3.49	0.18	3.63	-0.01	-	-	4.24	-1.43	5.06	-1.28

CURRENCIES



Index	Close	Change	Yr. Ago
Dollar	1.6390	-1.09c	1.5833
£-Mark	2.8638	-1.18p	2.8647
Yen	219.15	-0.69	191.55
E index	102.50	-0.50	100.10
\$ index	110.30	+0.50	106.30

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr. Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	12.61	0.02	18.08
Gold (\$)	286.05	-2.30	321.95
Silver (\$)	5.01	-0.03	4.72
GDP	113.40	2.60	112.48
RPI	163.00	8.50	157.49
Base Rates	7.50	7.00	-

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.6966	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.32
Austria (schillings)	19.56	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1400
Belgium (francs)	57.49	New Zealand (\$)	3.0941
Canada (\$)	2.4609	Norway (kroner)	12.52
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8191	Portugal (escudos)	283.00
Denmark (kroner)	10.67	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0291
Finland (markka)	8.5207	Singapore (\$)	2.7224
France (francs)	9.3302	Spain (pesetas)	235.89
Germany (marks)	2.7939	South Africa (rand)	9.7750
Greece (drachma)	478.15	Sweden (kroner)	12.90
Hong Kong (\$)	12.44	Switzerland (francs)	2.2881
Ireland (pounds)	1.1078	Thailand (bahts)	61.15
India (rupees)	64.74	Turkey (liras)	440641
Israel (shekels)	5.8816	USA (\$)	1.6174
Italy (lira)	2752		
Japan (yen)	214.72		
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.9702		
Malta (lira)	0.6167		

Rates for information purposes only
Source: Thomas Cook

BUSINESS

World markets rally as Bank ponders rates cut

THE BANK of England's Monetary Policy Committee meets today to decide the next move in UK interest rates as world markets rallied on the hope of lower rates in the US.

BY LEA PATERSON

Wall Street opened up sharply higher as US traders, who were on holiday on Monday, digested weekend comments hinting at lower rates by Alan Greenspan, Federal Reserve chairman. At midday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 213.66 points, or 2.8 per cent, at 7,854.91 after Mr Greenspan hinted that US interest rates could fall if the domestic economy slowed.

In London, the market saw some profit-taking after Monday's 180-point rise. The FTSE 100 closed down 2.8 points at 5344.2, although it was up as much as 52.8 points earlier in the day. Sterling continued to lose ground against the mark, closing down 1.5 pfennigs at DM2.864, a 12-month low, despite the release of better-than-expected UK economic data.

Alex Brown said: "Nobody really believes that we're at the end of this correction."

In the UK, the Office for National Statistics said industrial production grew by 0.4 per cent in July and was stable on the year, stronger figures than expected. Manufacturing output, the primary component of industrial production, was up 0.1 per cent on the month and down 0.6 per cent on the year.

Following a raft of gloomy business surveys, the market had been forecasting that manufacturing output would fall by 0.2 per cent in July.

Sterling spiked upward after the release of the data, before falling again in later trading, and economists said the figures could harden the Bank's resolve to keep rates on hold this week. Richard Iley at ABN Amro said: "These data, combined with sterling's recent weakness, should underpin unchanged rates this week."

The Bank's Monetary Policy Committee begins its two-day rate setting meeting today. An announcement will be made at midday on Thursday.

Economists were quick to point out that the better-than-expected manufacturing figures did not necessarily mean the sector was out of the woods. Jonathan Loynes at HSBC Securities said: "This is likely to prove a false dawn. Conditions in industry are set to get worse."

The fragile state of much of the UK economy was underlined by two new surveys. The latest EDO Stoy Hayward "poll of polls" found that the British business community believed the country was "on the brink of recession".



Sir David Rowland's appointment was generally welcomed in the City, although Lord Blyth had been the front runner. *Kalpeeth Lathigra*

NatWest's surprise chairman

NATWEST yesterday named Sir David Rowland, the former Lloyd's of London chairman, as the next chairman of the bank.

The surprise appointment of Sir David, regarded as the saviour of the Lloyd's insurance market, was well received by most City analysts. NatWest shares finished up 33p at 990p.

BY LEA PATERSON

Lord Alexander of Weedon, the current NatWest chairman, is to leave the bank in April. Although analysts had been expecting Lord Alexander to step down at next year's annual meeting of shareholders, the

identity of his successor came as a surprise: Lord Blyth, the chairman of Boots and a non-executive director of the bank, had been widely tipped.

Sir David, who at 65 is three years older than Lord Alexander, said he was "delighted" at his appointment.

going chairman said.

The appointment was ratified by the board yesterday morning, NatWest said. Sir David had been the "first and unanimous" choice of the board, according to a source close to the bank.

NatWest has also invited Sir Dick Evans, the chairman of British Aerospace, to join the board as a non-executive director effective from 1 October.

The management changes were generally well received by most analysts, many of whom had been unhappy with Lord Alexander's tenure. One said: "There are certain people who will be glad to see Lord Alexander go. He was not really on the same wavelength as we were."

Sir David's appointment was called "safe but unimaginative" by one leading analyst, while another said he thought Sir David "looked good on paper". Others noted that the former Lloyd's of London chairman, who has been a non-executive director of the bank since April, lacked "hands-on retail experience".

Prior commitments at Boots meant that Lord Blyth, who was widely expected to take up the reins, would have been unable to assume the chairmanship until the end of next year. Had Lord Blyth been appointed, NatWest would have had to choose between extending Lord Alexander's tenure or appointing an interim chairman.

Lord Hurd of Westwell and Sir George Quigley are to retire from the NatWest board in April, although both will continue to be employed by the bank.

Outlook, page 15

Bonfield calls for telecoms shake-up

SIR PETER BONFIELD, chief executive of British Telecom, called yesterday for traditional telecoms and broadcasting regulators to be scrapped and replaced with bodies which could police the fast-converging markets of computers, television and telephones.

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

In a strongly-worded speech which is bound to embarrass the government, Sir Peter Bonfield called for a radical shake-up of the current regime. "Old-style regulation, based on

the 20th century sectors of telecoms and broadcasting is simply not adequate for the 21st century's converged industry," he said.

Instead, Sir Peter put forward a blueprint in which regulators cover four new markets: consumer equipment, distribution networks, service provision across those networks, and the creation of content.

The structure would allow regulators to police effectively emerging new technologies such as the internet, mobile telephony and digital television, where telephone traffic and broadcasting have become almost indistinguishable.

Sir Peter's proposal is a response to a consultation paper published by the European Commission. Although he was speaking about regulation across Europe, Sir Peter's comments are a thinly-veiled

criticism of Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary.

Earlier this year, the minister shied away from suggesting radical changes to the current regulatory regime. Instead, his department opted to leave in place the existing structure, which gives Ofcom responsibility for the telecoms industry.

Sir Peter said developing the right regulatory structure was critical to enhancing Europe's competitiveness.

"Regulation has to be tight enough to outlaw unfair competition but light enough to promote investment and innovation," he said.

Speaking at a conference on Europe's New Digital Economy, Sir Peter said this did not necessarily mean having a single European regulator. However, BT would support a "centre of best practice" within the European Commission which would provide benchmarks for national regulators.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

AFTER MONDAY'S strong advance, shares could make only a brief response to New York's opening surge. After a 52.8-point gain, Footsie ran out of steam, ending with a 2.8-point fall at 5,344.2.

British American Tobacco, freed from its financial obligations after a demerger, were the best blue-chip performer, adding 128.5p to 468p.

Its old financial side, Allied Zurich, was more subdued, losing 30.5p to 78p. Housebuilders gained on hopes of lower interest rates.

Derek Fain, page 19

NEW YORK

SHARE prices traded close to their highs in late morning after Wall Street had its first chance to react to the weekend speech by Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, which hinted at an easing of fiscal policy.

The Dow soared more than 200 points to 7,854.91 before steadying at a near 230-point gain. Dealers said many fund managers were buying to cover short positions. The Nasdaq was up 67.56 points at 1,634.03.

TOKYO

PRICES MET strong resistance in the afternoon after the Nikkei 225 index moved above the 15,000 point mark, triggering profit-taking.

Tokyo's bulls were encouraged by US hints of a possible fiscal easing, causing an initial rally until the psychological barrier was hit.

Share prices were able to hold on to positive territory to the close, supported by continued strong buying from overseas funds following the sharp gains of a day earlier. The Nikkei ended at 14,913.49, up 123.43 on the day.

HONG KONG

THE HANG Seng index closed up 112.49 points at 8,189.25 after brokers tempered initial enthusiasm. The index rose to a high of 8,331.69 before slipping back. After the recent strong rally, most fund managers decided to take profits as they do not believe the index can remain at its current level.

Traders said the market was concerned that the government may start trimming its holdings in blue-chips it bought up when the index stood at 7,300 points.

FRANKFURT

SHARE prices closed sharply higher, boosted by Wall Street's positive start. The Xetra DAX closed at 5,095.62, up 149.88 points from yesterday's close of 4,945.74. "I think Wall Street is up on the feeling that there is some catching up to do, and possibly in reaction to the slight improvements recently in South-east Asian markets," said one trader.

A Bundesbank central council member, Olaf Sievert, said that the bank had no fear of lower interest rates if the position required them.

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Food group to split three ways

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It's steady as she goes at NatWest

SO IT IS to be Sir David Rowland after all. After months of speculation that the NatWest chairmanship would go to Lord Blyth, chief executive of Boots, or alternatively that the bank was casting its net further afield for an outsider, directors have opted for the somewhat uninspired choice of Sir David. But then as the strategy at NatWest, after its disastrous experiment in investment banking, is now to concentrate on steady as she goes, conservatively run retail banking, the uninspired choice may well be the right one.



OUTLOOK

In many respects, Sir David is perfect for the job. He has an excellent track record in the financial services industry, most notably in steering Lloyd's of London through its dark night of the soul and out the other side, and is as well regarded as any in the City. He is thus easily capable of fulfilling that figurehead role that has traditionally been the place of a clearing bank chairman.

his career to date has been exclusively in insurance, a quite different business. Given what happened at NatWest, it might not seem like such a good idea to replace one non-banker with another. Still, David Rowland at least comes in unambiguously as a part-time, non-executive chairman, so there should be no quarrel about who runs the show, as there has been between Lord Alexander and Derek Wanless, the present chief executive.

Aerospace

WHEN THEY can hear themselves think under the roar of the air displays, the big wheels at the Farnborough Airshow are all talking turkey. The name of the game is consolidation, whether it is dressed up as partnership, risk and revenue sharing, strategic alliance or straightforward takeover.

pointment may be cause for a bit of a yawn, but NatWest does seem to have alighted on someone few can object to, and with his background in financial services, he must be a better choice for the job than Lord Blyth, an engineer and retailer, or the present incumbent, a smooth talking barrister.

Whether this aeronautical version of the Maginot line will hold is anyone's guess but the lessons of history would suggest not. The US defence scene is being carved up by a handful of giant players.

Hilldown

THE HUGE complex break-up of Hilldown Holdings signals the end of yet another of those old-fashioned and greatly unloved conglomerates.

bag to end all rag bags. Built up in the 1980s by Sir Harry Solomon and David Thompson, it operated what it openly described as the "Lily Pad management technique". This saw Hilldown cast as the frog sat on a huge lily pad. Its approach to acquisitions, it said, was "to stick out its huge tongue and swallow what ever flies by."

Even at the time, this raised eyebrows, but undeterred, Hilldown was by the mid-1980s using its paper to do a deal a week. The idea was to buy businesses - any business - in a mature fragmented market and then wring out cost savings.

Manchester Utd

THE PUBLIC outcry over Rupert Murdoch's planned bid for Manchester United has left the little matter of how much the club might be worth largely undebated, outside the boardroom at least. BSKyB is understood to have put £75m on the table, which equates to 221p a share. This is a big premium to the price at which the shares were trading ahead of Sky's interest becoming public knowledge, but is it enough?

Enic leads the football attack

News Analysis: BSKyB has a formidable rival in the fight to buy football clubs. Joe Lewis has stakes in four leading teams and wants more

WITH ATTENTION focused on Rupert Murdoch and Manchester United, the manoeuvrings of another player on the European soccer scene, the billionaire financier Joe Lewis, have gone largely unnoticed.

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

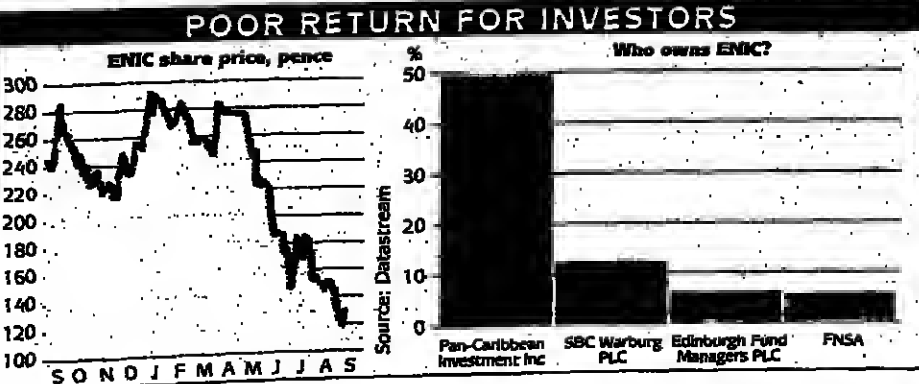
Bahamas-based entrepreneur several years ago with the idea of buying up football clubs. They backed into an investment trust called English National Investment Company and set about turning it into a suitable vehicle for their ambitions.

Mr Lewis, a publicity-shy man of considerable wealth, has been busy distancing himself from Mr Levy. In April he handed over his 49 per cent shareholding in Enic to Mr Levy and his son Charlie, whose main responsibility is developing the restaurant side of the business. The football side is exclusively Mr Levy's.

share. But the real sticking point appears to be Mr Sugar's insistence on his son Daniel remaining managing director.



Enic's theatres of dreams: (left to right) Ibrox, White Hart Lane and Old Trafford



Joe Lewis's Enic group is no rival to Rupert Murdoch, but he has powerful friends

in meetings and under pressure to make up its mind. Mr Levy yesterday flew back from Glasgow where he attended a Rangers board meeting with the Enic chairman, Howard Stanton.

It would take some highly imaginative financial structuring, particularly in view of Enic's poor recent share price performance. But Enic has powerful friends who would underwrite a bid. In the end, it

is their views which will probably count more.

SMG to get video rights to Thomas in £31m deal

SCOTTISH MEDIA GROUP, owners of Scottish Television and the Glasgow Herald, launched a takeover bid yesterday for VCI, the video publishing group.

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

floated at 150p four years ago, initially performed well, peaking at 350p in 1996. However, the company was punished by a series of disappointments which pushed the shares down to below 50p earlier this year.

Shares in SMG jumped 32p to 651p on news of the acquisition, and the group's interim results, which showed pre-tax profits before exceptional items, rising 27 per cent to £23.5m.

Rolls US jet rival to take stake in Airbus engine

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

ROLLS-ROYCE forged a groundbreaking deal yesterday to bring a rival US aero-engine manufacturer into its Trent engine programme.

of its deadly US rivals has taken a direct stake in an engine developed by Rolls. The other partners are FiatAvio of Italy and Lucas Aerospace, the Spanish aero-engine company ITP and Marubeni, and Kawasaki Heavy Industries of Japan.

Rolls' US subsidiary Allison has also clinched a \$500m contract to power a fleet of up to 150 Embraer regional airliners on order to American Eagle.

Nikko into credit

NIKKO Europe, a leading Japanese-owned investment bank, has entered the market for consumer finance in the UK by buying British Credit Trust Holdings, a motor finance company, for an undisclosed sum.

مكتبة ابن الجوزي

Mansell picks up struggling Lovell

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

MANSSELL, the privately-owned construction group, yesterday announced plans to move on to the stock exchange through a £200m merger with its listed rival, Lovell.

The merger, which will be a reverse takeover by Mansell of its troubled competitor, will create one of the UK's biggest providers of social housing.

The companies said that council housing is set to boom following the Government's decision to allow local authorities to spend billions of pounds in capital receipts. David Beardsmore, the Mansell chief executive who will head the combined group, said the company would be "ideally placed" to capitalise on the growth in social housing.

Shares in Lovell were suspended at 12.5p yesterday pending completion of the deal. The enlarged company, with sales of £400m and an estimated market value of more than £200m, will be able to compete for council housing work throughout the UK, Mr Beardsmore said.

The chief executive, who is sitting on a paper profit of around £1.6m for his 2 per cent stake, said the deal was an almost risk-free way of ending Mansell's 66 years as a private company. The current market turmoil was making it hard to persuade institutions to invest in companies coming to market. "If we had to float independently we would not have got a market capitalisation as big as the one we would get with Lovell."

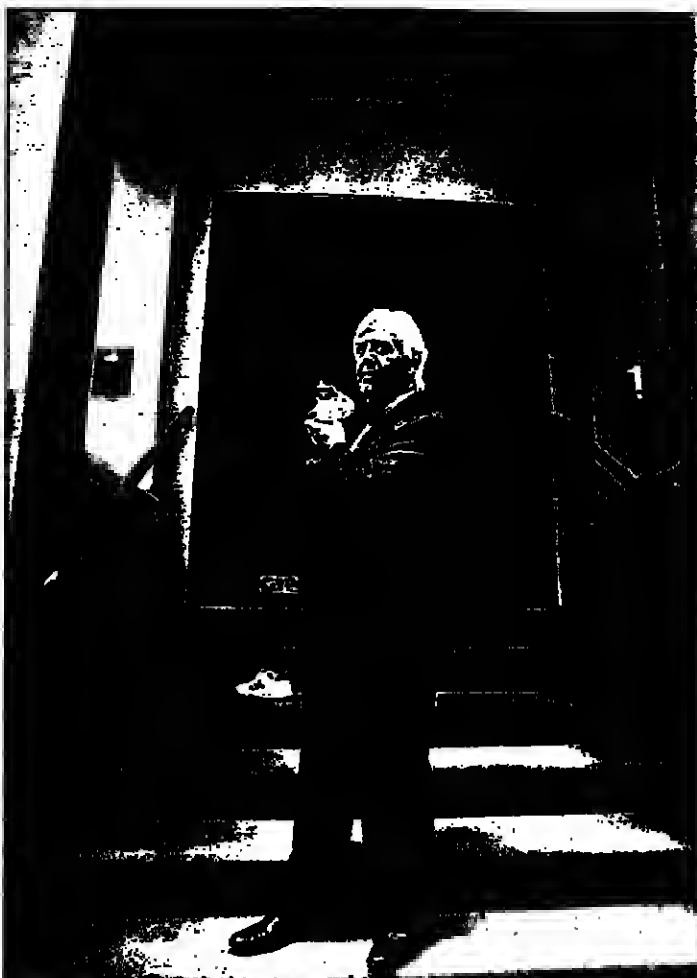
Under the terms of the reverse takeover Mansell, a Surrey-based contractor specialising in refurbishment and maintenance, will have 78 per cent of the new entity. The company, which had sales of £183m and profits of £4.7m last year, is controlled by the descendants of the founding family. Venture capital group 3i has a 17 per cent stake.

Mr Beardsmore said there was "no indication" that existing shareholders would sell on completion. Sir John Wickerson, Mansell's chairman, takes

the post in the new group. David Heppell, Lovell's chief executive, will become an executive director.

The deal is a lifeline for Lovell, which has been hit hard by the recent economic slowdown. Analysts said the company had suffered from a number of ill-judged property deals in the late 1980s which plunged it into debt. A new management team, led by Mr Heppell and backed by a Swedish investment fund, took over three years ago and refocused the group on its core construction business. Last year the company posted a £1.54m loss, compared with a loss of £11.7m in 1996.

Meanwhile, Taylor Woodrow, the construction and property group, yesterday posted a 32.5 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £48m on turnover of £668m. Colin Parsons, the chief executive, said the recent sell-off in housebuilding shares had been overdone. "I think [the market] has overreacted, and we will see that as the results of other housebuilders start coming through."



Stephen Rubin, chairman of Pentland Peter Macdiarmid

Pentland takes £30m US charge

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

PENTLAND, the Speedo and Kickers leisurewear group, is to take a £30m charge to cover the costs of restructuring its American business.

Pentland is planning to sell or close its US fashion footwear operation, which is losing money and suffered a near-£10m cash outflow last year. The division designs and distributes fashion footwear to department stores in America, but is now seen as a non-core business by Pentland.

The company will concentrate instead on its core portfolio of brands such as Ellesse, Berghaus and Mitre, as well as Speedo and Kickers. "We are taking this action because the division has not performed to our expectations," said Andy Rubin, the Pentland chief executive. The decision was taken after a strategic review. A cost cutting programme will be implemented.

Pentland confirmed plans to quit the replica football kit market, which has been declining. Its Pony brand sponsors the kits of Premiership football clubs Tottenham Hotspur, Southampton and West Ham.

These contracts will be honoured but will not be renewed as a result of increased losses at Pony UK.

Other clubs affected include Norwich, Oldham and Huddersfield.

The news came as Pentland announced a 20 per cent rise in first-half pre-exceptional profits to £17.4m. There was a £2.9m charge to cover the costs of making the group's computer systems year 2000 compliant. Trading in the first half was difficult in the UK and Asia, the company said. It is also cautious on prospects for the second half.

Among Pentland's main brands, Speedo was hit by soft demand in Asia and the strong pound. Ellesse made progress in the UK and Europe but also experienced a Far East impact. Kickers footwear was affected by stock run-downs by retailers which had over-ordered.

Pentland has net cash of £136m and is looking for acquisitions, although it is not currently in talks.

Group first-half sales fell from £316m to £252m as a result of disposals. The interim dividend was 1.54p per share against 1.47p last time. The shares closed down 0.5p at 79p.

Norwich role is predator, not a target

BY ANDREW VERITY

NORWICH UNION, one of the UK's biggest insurers, sought to remove itself from the shopping lists of Britain's retail banks yesterday when it classed itself as "a predator, not a target."

There had been persistent market rumours of a takeover by a large retail bank wanting to expand sales of life insurance and pensions. Speculation had focused on the Halifax and NatWest Bank.

Richard Harvey, chief executive, said Norwich Union's corporate strategy was to be "a consolidator" - rather than consolidated.

"If there was any doubt about it, I want to make the point that in terms of Norwich Union acquiring others, our team has been active in investigating opportunities both here and abroad."

"We have not completed a deal of a meaningful size because we concluded we would not be prepared to pay the prices offered," he said. Recent corrections, however, had "taken some of the froth out of the market."

Norwich Union unveiled a bumper set of results yesterday for the first half of the

year. Operating earnings before tax, the key measure for insurers, leapt 21 per cent to £348m, at the top of analysts' expectations.

Much of the rise stemmed from a robust market for life and pensions. Sales jumped 18 per cent last year after a slow first half, when Norwich Union was completing its transition from mutual insurer to listed company.

The general insurance arm was hard hit by poor weather in the first half, such as January storms and April floods costing £13m.

Norwich Union, never the less, was far less exposed than other insurers, such as GRT or Royal & Sun Alliance.

In March, Norwich Union sold its New Zealand life and savings wing for £54m to Royal & Sun Alliance and bought St Paul's International, a small general insurer.

Norwich Union shares rose 6 per cent to 449.5p yesterday.

Shares in Prudential and Legal & General also rose by nearly 2 per cent each.

Iceland profits rise to £23m

BY NIGEL COPE

ICELAND, the frozen-food retailer, continued its recovery yesterday when it announced healthy sales gains boosted by its home-delivery scheme and disclosed plans to extend the trial of its convenience store format.

Announcing a 32 per cent jump in half-year pre-tax profits to £23.6m, Malcolm Walker, Iceland's chairman and chief executive, said the home-delivery initiative had contributed to a 14 per cent increase in like-for-like food sales in Iceland's stores during the first half.

Current trading is also strong with same-store sales 10 per cent ahead of the same period last year.

Iceland's trial of six Iceland Extra stores, which operate a convenience store concept with an extended product range, has worked well. Sales in the converted stores were 40 per cent ahead on a comparable basis, though so far the extra sales have had only minimal impact on the bottom line.

Iceland's home-shopping service, where customers order from home, will be available nationwide by the end of October.

Board changes announced yesterday see Russell Ford promoted to trading director. He and Andrew Fritchard, finance director, will become joint managing directors of Iceland Foods.

P&O on the takeover trail

THE P&O chairman, Lord Sterling, said yesterday he believed that the current economic difficulties could provide expansion opportunities for the group.

Speaking after announcing a 12 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £138m at the halfway stage, Lord Sterling said the recent problems would open up a wealth of takeover opportunities at attractive prices although he insisted there were no specific deals in the pipeline.

"It is worth remembering that it is times like these that create opportunities," he said. City reaction to the figures was broadly positive. The shares rose 2p to 887p.

Recent focus has been on consolidation with the merger of the cross-Channel ferry operations with those of Swedish rival Stena becoming effective in March of this year. Lord Sterling said a large part of the cost savings from the merger had been achieved.

The joint venture is split 60 per cent in P&O's favour. The group has also merged its container operations with Nedlloyd of Holland. The joint ventures reported half-year results last month.

Profits at Bovis, the construction arm, were up 40 per cent. The P&O chairman dismissed reports that the group was looking at a sale.

Lord Sterling said: "I would be surprised if it is not part of the P&O group next year."

Norwich Union plc Interim Statement

The first half of 1998 reflects sound progress in challenging markets. Resources freed up following the flotation, is well placed to take advantage of opportunities. We are confident that they hold great potential for us. Good value products and excellent customer service through our network of branches. Very positive about the future. Careful management of risk and the further growth of good businesses in line with our strategy. Earnings for the benefit of our shareholders.

Richard Harvey, Group Chief Executive

	Unaudited 26 weeks to 30.06.98 £m	Pro forma Unaudited 26 weeks to 30.06.97 £m	Pro forma Audited 52 weeks to 31.12.97 £m
Gross premium income			
Long term business			
General business			
Total gross premiums			
Operating earnings			
Balance transferred from long term business technical account			
Balance transferred from general business technical account			
Shareholders' investment income (net)			
Other			
Operating earnings before taxation			
Realised/Unrealised investment gains			
Profit on sales of subsidiary undertakings			
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation			
Tax on profit on ordinary activities			
Minority interests			
Profit attributable to shareholders			
Dividend			
Retained profit for the period			
Earnings per share			
Earnings per ordinary share			
Operating earnings per ordinary share			
Dividend per share			

- UK Life & Pensions - Technical result of £255 million (15 June 1997: £213 million). New life, pensions and investment business growth of 18% for the half year to £129 million annual premium equivalent (30 June 1997: £109 million). Voted Money Marketing Company of the Year by IFAs in 1997 and 1998.
- UK General Insurance - commendable technical result of £28 million (15 June 1997: £37 million) in the light of the Easter floods which cost the Group £13 million.
- International business - another buoyant performance despite operating in some difficult markets and the effect of strong sterling. A technical result of £46 million for the half year to 30 June 1998 (15 June 1997: £41 million).
- Funds under management up to £53.7 billion (end 1997: £49.2 billion).
- Life embedded value £4.4 billion (end 1997: £4.0 billion) and shareholders' net assets £5.5 billion (end 1997: £5.1 billion).
- Our Life and Fund Management operations in New Zealand, and Maritime Insurance Company Limited, a specialist marine insurer, were sold during the period, realising gains of £32 million.

This advertisement contains only a summary of the interim report. To receive a copy of the full report, please complete and return the coupon.

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BAT returns to a rapturous welcome

THE RETURN of British American Tobacco to the stock market after a 22-year absence brings a humbling end to one of the most ambitious diversification programmes ever undertaken by a British group.

Until it hit the takeover trail, BAT was a "pure" tobacco company. Worried about the growing impact of the smoking and health campaign, it joined the rest of the industry in a madcap spending spree. Now, once again an uncomplicated smokes group following its final demerger, BAT was given a rapturous stock market welcome, puffed up 128.5p to 466p in busy trading.

To rub salt into the diversification wound, the last remaining non-tobacco business, the Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star financial and insurance operations which merged with Switzerland's Zurich group, made a far less impressive debut. Allied Zurich, as the new financial group is known, ended 30.5 down at 78p.

The sharply contrasting displays are due to the market perception that the insurance group faces an uncertain time and the once despised tobacco side is under-

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

valued and high yielding. There is also a belief that the tobacco business got the best of the break-up.

BAT, it now appears, wasted its time spreading into such areas as catalogue retailing, supermarkets, and paper and packaging. At one time it even fancied itself as a brewer. It was an unsuccessful takeover bid, inspired by the late Sir James Goldsmith, which ended BAT's expansionist aspirations. It beat off the Goldsmith assault by promising to get back to its core business and, before the financial

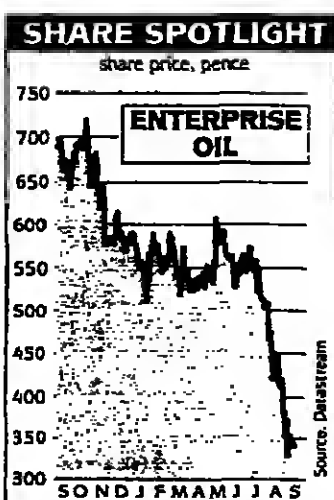
split, had sold or floated its other operations.

A host of investment houses advocated the merits of BAT Credit Lyonnais and Schroders were among those suggesting the shares are a buy.

The tobacco/financial split pushed all group Lasso out of Footsie, just ahead of the steering committee meeting to decide on the quarterly changes. It looks like being quite a shake-up, with Enterprise Oil following Lasso. Others in the firing line include RMC and Smiths Industries.

One late contender for Footsie honours is TeleWest Communications, the cable group. A share conversion, completed as the market closed, should have provided enough ammunition, in the shape of ordinary shares, to ensure Footsie membership.

The country's second largest cable group sold 400 million preference shares, issued when it took over General Cable, had been switched into ordinary shares. The new shares lifted TeleWest's capitalisation to approaching £3bn which is enough to give Footsie sta-



There could, however, be a question mark over the timing of the conversion; the new shares had not actually been traded when the Footsie calculations were made.

Footsie ended 2.8 points off at 5,344.2; at one time it was up 52.8, reflecting a strong New York opening. It could be argued that Monday's dramatic advance was in anticipation of yesterday's Wall

Street strength. Supporting indices were rather more confident. The mid cap gained 57.4 to 4,804.5 and the small cap 17.3 to 2,102.2.

Enterprise shipped, although Henderson Crosthwaite, despite the impending Footsie relegation, believe the shares are a buy. Conversely it takes a cautious stance on Securicor, likely to become an index constituent. The oil group, 716.5p a year ago, fell a further 3p to 347p; Securicor rose 1p to 48p.

United News & Media, ahead of figures today, put on 45.5p to 672p and Norwich Union, following first half figures, rose 27p to 452p.

More overseas orders lifted some of the depression from Rolls-Royce, up 7.5p to 199.5p.

The signalled arrival of David Rowland as chief of National Westminster Bank prompted a 33p gain to 900p with the market at least relieved at the ending of the uncertainty over the chairman-ship.

Supermarket shares were ruffled as BT Alex Brown trimmed its profits forecasts for Asda and Sainsbury, two chains which once nursed merger hopes. Asda retreated 5.5p

to 180.5p and Sainsbury 8p to 323p. J Sainsbury shaded 2.5p to 540p and Tesco 1p to 169p.

Marks & Spencer gave up 21.5p to 498p in response to the bleak trading performance of one of its major suppliers, Dewhurst. After a torrid session on Monday following his figures, Dewhurst gained 2.5p to 160p.

Booker, now in reverse takeover talks with Budgens, tumbled 14p to 158p, another new low. Talk of interest rate cuts had the predictable impact on house builders which have suffered sharp reverses in recent months. Barrat Developments led the mid cap advance with a 17p recovery to 181.5p and Beazer added 14.5p to 157p. Taylor Woodrow, with strong results, gained 14.5p to 162.5p.

TLG, the lighting group where US group Cooper Industries has made a 160p share bid, rose 3p to 170p as Wassall, the conglomerate, picked up another 550,000 shares at 165p. It now has 15.94 per cent.

SEAQ VOLUME: 5,344.2m
SEAQ TRADES: 62,674
GILT INDEX: n/a

SUPERFRAME, a designer and maker of retail display equipment, held at 12p. There are suggestions Mike McDonald, chairman of Sheffield United, the quoted football club, is thinking about pumping some of his private businesses into the group. Superframe's shares are near their year's low; they have been up to 23p. Dean Corporation, the builder and property services group, is a near 30 per cent shareholder.

FLYING FLOWERS, which has withered from nearly 600p to 130p following profits warnings, Armed 3p to 149p. Beeson Gregory has upgraded its recommendation from hold to buy. It sees profits falling from 55.5m to 25.1m with 17m in the frame for next year. But analyst Russell Kerr says it is unlikely the market will give FF a rating "that reflects the group's intrinsic value until investor concerns are allayed".

A security risk at Williams

WILLIAMS REMAINS a company in transition. Since it bought Chubb for £1.5bn the former conglomerate has shed more than £800m worth of underperforming or cyclical businesses such as do-it-yourself and paints in order to reinvent itself as a security group concentrating on its locks, alarms and fire protection businesses.

Yesterday's interim results are a step in the right direction. The leaner and fitter Williams reported a 12 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £133m on sales up 32 per cent to £1.23bn. The performance was driven chiefly by strong growth in the electronic systems division, which showed profit growth of 15 per cent. The locks and hardware division was also on the up, with earnings growth of 7 per cent.

Despite these encouragingly good results, Williams's second half is fraught with uncertainties. The management is partly responsible for this: its promise that 60 per cent of its yearly earnings will come in the latter part of the year has set Williams a demanding target. With markets set to remain broadly the same, Williams's ability to meet its key hinges on whether it can deliver the £40m in cost savings promised at the time of the Chubb buy.

Despite the company's confidence, many in the City remain sceptical and fear that the savings could be required to make up for some unexpected market downturn.

Also, the completion of the disposal programme has been delayed indefinitely by the decision to freeze the sale of the US paints division due to tough market conditions.

This means that the company will have to carry some of its unwanted baggage for a little while longer and that management's time and efforts will be diverted away from the core businesses.

The shares, which closed unchanged at 316p, have underperformed the market recently. They are now on 13 times expected earnings of £31m.

That's not demanding, but given the doubts over prospects for the company's second half-year, the shares are no more than a hold.

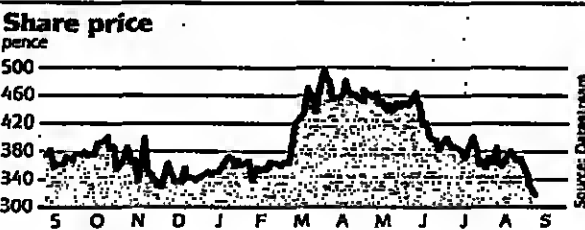
INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

WILLIAMS: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £2.301bn, share price 316p

Trading record	1995	1996	1997	1997	1998
Revenue (£m)	1,010	1,182	1,223	1,231	1,230
Pre-tax profits (£m)	228.30	340.20	254.00	263.50	118.10
Dividends per share (p)	12.25	15.00	15.80	16.25	16.00



BBA kept aloft by aviation

THE ENGINEERING sector is out of favour and BBA has suffered with it. Judging by yesterday's interim results this is not entirely unjustified. Although the shifting balance of the business makes fair comparisons difficult, the 7 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £83.7m owed much to a sharp drop in interest charges.

The best performance came from the aviation arm, benefiting from the growing use of corporate aircraft for timeshare travel. The unit generated one-third of first-half profits and is showing organic growth in sales and profits. The order book remains strong, while bolt-on acquisitions fit easily into the existing framework.

Sales in the non-vehicle division which supplies the essential materials for nappies and sanitary towels were static, but increased capacity and new projects will come on stream in the second half. Veratec, the £160m acquisition, will also

start contributing to profits, while BBA is set to expand into China and Latin America, both growth markets.

Sales of brake pads grew by

just 1 per cent in the first half, excluding the impact of exchange rates, and what growth there was came from the replacement market. Much depends on new development programmes in the US.

The shares closed little changed at 350p, well below the peak of £330 three months ago. Analysts are disinclined to change their forecasts for the full year, which average £168m, rising to £190m for 1999. On a forward multiple of 12 the shares are worth watching, but until market sentiment shifts back to engineers they are fully valued for now.

Aegis moves to calm investors

HAS ADVERTISING spending peaked? Maiden, the billboard group, put investors on edge last week with a warning of a slowdown in spending. Yesterday Aegis, the media planning group, did its best to calm them down. Yes, said the chief executive, Crispin Davis, spending in the UK is slowing down, although the market will still grow by 4 to 5 per cent this year. But the outlook in continental Europe and the US remains strong.

Investors were not con-

vinced. Aegis shares, which have fallen from a peak of 112p last month, only edged up 0.5p to 83.5p yesterday despite the company reporting a 13 per cent increase in first-half operating profits to £24.1m.

Although Aegis clearly depends on overall advertising spending, it is also benefiting from the increasing trend towards using media planning agencies. The proliferation of television channels and magazines, not to mention the Internet, means that companies have to spend increasing amounts of time thinking about where to place their ads.

What's more, as an independent agency Aegis is able to move faster than its rivals, most of which are part of larger advertising groups. Stripping out acquisitions, organic sales growth was almost 9 per cent in the first half.

At the moment, Aegis is sticking to strategic bolt-on acquisitions, including spending £15m on building up a network in the Far East. Longer term, however, Mr Davis still sees scope for consolidation in the media buying industry. Full-year profit forecasts of £79.9m place the shares on a forward earnings multiple of 23. Despite immediate worries, the shares offer good long-term value.

Our father, who art in Microsoft

TO THE QE II Centre in Westminster to hear the Ruler of the Known Universe, Bill Gates, express his enthusiasm for the Internet.

The besuited nerd told the fifth annual CEOs summit on "Converging Technologies" how the Net was going to take over the world and why everyone should use Microsoft to access it.

Then Dr Christopher Hartnett, chairman and founder of USA Global Link, a Net-based telecoms company, got up to ask a question.

Instead of throwing Mr Gates a couple of curve balls on monopolies and the like, Dr Hartnett embarked on a mini-eulogy. "I'd like to thank you on behalf of USA Global Link, but I'd also like to thank you on behalf of the entire human race," he said.

As the startled audience sniggered into their presentation packs, Dr Hartnett barked on about how Bill Gates was the font of all human knowledge, and finished off with a flourish: "If William H Gates didn't exist, none of us would be here today." I know what he meant, but ...

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS
BY JOHN WILLCOCK

Trust and Verity, and he has been chairman of Development Securities since 1995.

MOHAMED AL-FAYED has hired a chap from Midland Bank to run Harrods Bank. David Maxwell has spent his entire 36-year career with the Midland, the last six years as area manager in Basingstoke.

Harrods says of Mr Maxwell: "His command of French, which he studied after leaving Eton College, led to his being seconded to Eurotunnel as manager, banking and exchange, during the 1980s."

Mr Maxwell said yesterday: "Harrods Bank is a rare gem these days, compared with the general high street banking scene. At Harrods Bank, clients still receive a highly personalised service from a team of very experienced and mature bankers." Unlike Midland, I presume.

I'M GLAD to say the weather held for the final of the 1998 Corney & Barrow Golf Croquet League yesterday, which was won by a pair of lily lads from ABN Amro.

Drummond Pratt and Paul Swadlow, both Oxford graduates from the Dutch bank, took just 20 minutes to beat a pair of Swedish asset managers.

The ABN boys were victorious over Arne Lundberg and Johan Holmstrom by a score of 4-1 to take the Veuve Clicquot Cup in a match held at Exchange Square in Broadgate in

the City. Apparently the winners admitted to some serious pre-match nerves, saying they considered themselves the "phoenix from the ashes".

When at Oxford they both decided not to join the University Croquet Club as they said it was "teetotal and games took up to three hours".

The Swedes, meanwhile, were even more amazed to have made it as far as the final, having entered the tournament on the off-chance. Called "Sub-par" (SEB Funder - Asset Management), they achieved a 100 per cent success rate until the final, having swept aside the likes of Barings and Deutsche Bank on the way.

Just to give an idea of the high standard of the tournament, ABN Amro beat "General Peeters" in the semi-finals, who had in turn beaten last year's champions, the "Tokai Trippers". Stephen Mulliner of Trippers is currently chairman of the English Croquet Association and is ranked fifth in the world.

THERE'S A rumour going around diplomatic circles that the US Embassy in Moscow is having to fly in its own supplies of hard currency to pay running costs and staff salaries now that Russia has stopped converting the rouble.

Apparently, according to the cocktail circuit rumour, a Boeing 747 stuffed full of dollar bills flies in once a week.

A spokesman for the US Embassy in London is unimpressed with this suggestion. "They're always flown in dollars to cover running costs. I've no idea how the current crisis would affect that. I would imagine they would need fewer dollars."

The spokesman added that in order to get a definitive reaction to this rumour, I should ring the US Embassy in Moscow itself.

On doing so yesterday all I managed to get through to was a continuous and deafening engaged tone. Perhaps they are busy changing this week's order of dollars.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark Spot	1 month	3 month
UK	1.0000			0.6031	0.6042	0.6050
Australia	2.8107	2.8104	2.8028	1.6976	1.6979	1.6983
Austria	20.142	20.104	20.038	1.147	1.147	1.147
Belgium	59.096	59.096	59.096	35.245	35.245	35.245
Canada	2.2525	2.2518	2.2518	1.223	1.223	1.223
Denmark	10.899	10.899	10.818	6.5739	6.5739	6.5739
ECU	1.4522	1.4513	1.4488	1.1391	1.1405	1.1410
Finland	6.7429	6.7446	6.7409	2.2506	2.2506	2.2506
France	6.564	6.5599	6.5591	7.774	7.774	7.774
Germany	2.9814	2.9814	2.9814	2.9814	2.9814	2.9814
Greece	2.8107	2.8107	2.8107	1.6976	1.6979	1.6983
Hong Kong	12.493	12.493	12.493	1.4493	1.4493	1.4493
Ireland	1.1434	1.1434	1.1434	1.1434	1.1434	1.1434
Italy	2.0505	2.0505	2.0505	1.223	1.223	1.223
Japan	219.96	219.96	219.96	3.8015	3.8015	3.8015
Malaysia	6.0205	6.0205	6.0205	1.02975	1.02975	1.02975
Mexico	3.2504	3.2504	3.2504	0.5130	0.5130	0.5130
Netherlands	3.2504	3.2504	3.2504	1.742	1.742	1.742
New Zealand	3.2504	3.2504	3.2504	1.742	1.742	1.742
Norway	2.8107	2.8107	2.8107	1.6976	1.6979	1.6983
Portugal	2.8107	2.8107	2.8107	1.6976	1.6979	1.6983
Saudi Arabia	6.2187	6.2187	6.2187	1.7250	1.7250	1.7250
Singapore	2.8107	2.8107	2.8107	1.6976	1.6979	1.6983
South Africa	10.2566	10.2566	10.2566	1.4639	1.4639	1.4639
Spain	243.05	243.05	243.05	1.3093	1.3093	1.3093
Sweden	13.262	13.262	13.262	1.4110	1.4110	1.4110
Switzerland	1.3594	1.3594	1.3594	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
US	1.6580					

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Spot	Country	Spot
Argentina	1.6580	Iran	0.6382
Brazil	1.9515	Philippines	0.3850
China	13.728	Poland	0.3497
Czech Rep	6.8111	Romania	3.4936
Egypt	5.6229	Russia	3.4936
India	38.907	South Korea	57.173
Indonesia	70.548	Taiwan	67.252
Israel	18.984	Thailand	45.7475
Jordan	0.3043	Turkey	2.7892
Kuwait	139.27	UAE	0.6890
Nigeria			

INTEREST RATES

UK	Germany	US	France	Japan
Base	7.50%	Discount	2.50%	Discount
3 month	7.50%	Discount	2.50%	Discount
6 month	7.50%	Discount	2.50%	Discount
1 year	7.50%	Discount	2.50%	Discount

BOND YIELDS

Country	3 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year
Australia	4.91	0.00	4.93	0.00	5.09	0.04
Belgium	3.45	0.01	3.62	0.00	3.59	0.02
Canada	5.48	0.01	5.68	0.01	5.22	0.00
Denmark	5.19	0.01	5.39	0.02	5.30	0.01
France	0.00	0.00	3.48	0.01	3.65	0.01
Germany	3.50	0.00	3.63	0.00	3.57	0.00
Italy	4.91	0.00	5.09	0.04	5.39	0.04
Japan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Netherlands	3.38	0.01	3.61	0.01	3.67	0.03
Spain	4.12	0.00	4.31	0.01	4.35	0.02
Sweden	4.20	0.00	4.38	0.02	4.31	0.01
Switzerland	1.63	0.02	1.78	0.01	1.83	0.03
UK	7.20	0.05	7.31	0.01	7.42	0.05

MONEY MARKET RATES

Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Libor	7.22	7.22	7.22	7.22	7.22
US	6.25	6.75	7.25	7.38	7.44

LIFE FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est. Floor	Open Interest
Long Gil	Sep-98	112.05	111.97	818.00	5706.00
Short Gil	Sep-98	105.15	105.09	6.00	581.00
German Bund	Sep-98	112.79	112.38	1513.00	8552.00
Italian Bond	Sep-98	123.01	123.01	0.00	0.00
Japanese Gov Bd	Sep-98	135.68	135.68	856.00	0.00
3 Mth Sterling	Sep-98	92.45	92.47	52.45	153387.00
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	92.77	92.82	92.74	141966.00
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	96.50	96.51	96.49	146316.00
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	96.44	96.44	14005.00	14005.00
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	95.01	95.04	95.00	15767.00
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	95.21	95.24	95.18	13301.00
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	95.34	95.38	95.34	6114.00
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	95.25	95.32	95.24	77408.00
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	95.84	95.85	95.83	15845.00
FTSE 100	Sep-98	5335.00	5410.00	5300.00	33676.00

LIFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION

month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Bid Offer	Bid Offer	Bid Offer	Bid Offer
52 7.22	7.30 7.20		
54 7.50	7.44 7.50	7.34 7.41	7.197.25
57 7.53	7.47 7.53	7.34 7.41	7.167.22
56 7.26	7.93 7.23	7.20 7.10	
58 7.40	7.46 7.38	7.37 7.29	7.167.06
50	5.47	5.44	
53 4.25	4.06 4.19	3.56 4.06	

SOURCE: Bloomberg

SPORT

Cricket: A British institution will call stumps for the last time this weekend, and there won't be a dry eye in the house



Dickie Bird relaxes in the study of his Barnsley home yesterday surrounded by the mementoes of his years in cricket. He will be hanging up his trade-mark white cap for the last time on Sunday

David Ashdown

Bird's finger of destiny moves on

BY JON CULLEY

IT HAS been an emotional summer for Harold Dennis Bird. Having turned 65 in April, he is compelled, after 28 white-coated years, to hang up his trademark white cap and step down from the rota of first-class umpires. Every match, usually his last appearance at one ground or another, has had a sense of finality.

His home near Barnsley has filled up with mementoes, new ones every week, and he has shed a few tears before moving on to the next show of appreciation and affection. Today, however, the journey reaches its end.

The meeting of Yorkshire and Warwickshire at Headingley is Dickie Bird's final swansong. He will stand in the Championship match between the sides and bow out for good by officiating in the AXA League fixture between the same teams on Sunday. He does not expect to remain dry-eyed.

"I feel very sad, very emotional, but the laws of cricket say an umpire must retire at 65, so there's nothing you can do about it," he said.

"But it will leave a big hole in my life. I've known nothing else but cricket. I've been married to the game, really."

"I started at Headingley 50 years ago, as a 15-year-old turning up to practice. It's nice that I'm finishing at Headingley, too, because I do have some happy memories of the place."

Then again, he has happy memories of almost every corner of the cricketing world, having achieved

the distinction, probably unique, of winning the respect of players and his peers in all the nations where the game is played. Viv Richards called him "the best Test umpire I ever saw", and there are few higher compliments.

"Wherever I go in the world, there are always friends, always invitations to dinner," he said, before reciting off a *Who's Who* of the game's most celebrated names. "I like to think it is because I gained people's respect."

"I shall miss that part of it most of all, the comradeship and friendship with players and with my fellow umpires."

Few were more consistent – and consistently right – in decision-making than Bird. But he managed also to be a character, an entertainer, a figure of fun sometimes, almost to the extent that no match he stood in could be regarded as complete without some incident to provoke the repertoire of agitated twitches and gesticulations for which he was known and loved.

Crowds would almost want there to be a spectator in front of the sight screen, some unruly pigeons encroaching on to the wicket, or the reflected sun causing unwanted dazzle, just so they could see Dickie in a flap. In time, he acquired such

a catalogue of bizarre happenings that his fund of after-dinner stories will never grow stale.

He feels humble but proud at the same time. "I'm very grateful to the British public, to the cricket public everywhere, really, for giving me such wonderful support. They have been fantastic to me."

In 1986 he was awarded the MBE, which he values as his most treasured possession, even ahead of his three World Cup medals.

Bird stood in 66 Test matches and 92 one-day internationals, both record numbers. Among them are countless indelible memories. For a man so steeped in cricket's past,

however, his view of the present is entirely positive, even approving.

"I don't think there is a lot wrong with the game," he said. "The system in England, I think, is just about right now, if we leave it as it is. Four-day cricket is the right format for the Championship, although we must play on good pitches. There are too many matches that end in two or three days, which is not fair to the members and no good for the game."

"You have to prepare the best possible surface so that spin bowlers come into the game on the last day. And the electronic aids have been a boon, as well as making umpiring easier; although I would not introduce any more. Using fixed-position cameras is fine for run-outs, stumpings, close catches, but I don't think you can use them for lbws or bat-pad because you can't be 100 per cent sure from a television picture."

He does not even share the common despair over England's future in the international pecking order. "We'll produce good players again," he said. "I believe these things come in cycles. There are a lot of good young players coming through and as long as we don't over-coach them, as long as we don't coach out their natural game, in three or four

years England could well have a very successful team."

And if they do not, he intends to be around to stand corrected. Much as he loves the 17th century cottage in Staincross in which he has made his home – "John Wesley once slept there, you know, in my room!" – he cannot see himself spending too much time there, alone with his memories.

"I'll have good health – and I hope that I do – I'll go all around the world watching cricket. I've known nothing else all my life; always lived out of a suitcase since I was 19. That's why I never married, because it would not have been fair to a woman to subject her to that kind of life."

There will be tears on Sunday, inevitably, although it will be a while, he says, before the full impact of retirement brings itself to bear.

"From now until Christmas, I'm really busy. My book is coming out in paperback and I'll be going all round the country, doing signing sessions. And there is a video, too, about my Test matches."

"Then in January I've been invited to Australia, to watch the Ashes series."

"But I know it will be April when it hits me hard, when it is time to get everything organised for the new season and I'll not be going off. That will be the most difficult time."

Nonetheless, he accepts the change in his life without bitterness.

"I'm a big Christian; I go to church regularly and I have a strong faith. I know I have been lucky. The good Lord gave me a gift and I hope I have not let him down."

IT COULD ONLY HAPPEN TO DICKIE BIRD



1970 Spotted by a policeman scaling a wall at The Oval after arriving at 6.30am for his first umpiring assignment.

1973 England v West Indies, Lord's. Trapped on field after stands are evacuated during a bomb scare, taking refuge sitting on top of the pitch cover.

1980 England v Australia, Centenary Test, Lord's. Bird is harrowed by abusive MCC members who are angry at the delayed start to the third day's play.

1987 England v Pakistan, Old Trafford. Has to be replaced by Jack Birkenshaw

after a throw by Saleem Malik hits him on the knee.

1988 England v West Indies, Headingley. Forced to suspend play when water begins to come up through the ground from a blocked drain.

1990 England v New Zealand, Trent Bridge. Persuaded by Allan Lamb, who is bawling, to look after his mobile phone, which rings in Bird's pocket in the middle of an over. The caller is Ian Botham.

1995 England v West Indies, Old Trafford. Suspends play because of dazzle from a hospitality box.



Lancashire secure magic of Muralitharan

LANCASHIRE HAVE confirmed the signing of Muralitharan, the Sri Lankan off-spinner, as their overseas player for next season. The 27-year-old bowler replaces Wasim Akram, the Pakistan all-rounder, who has been at the club since 1987 and has led them to both the NatWest Trophy and the AXA League title this season.

Muralitharan, who was pursued by two other counties, including Kent, has signed a one-season contract and will report to Old Trafford when Sri Lanka's World Cup commitments come to an end next summer. He will only be available to play half of Lancashire's Championship matches and two thirds of their one-day games and could be called away again at the end of the season

for Sri Lanka's home Test series against Australia.

Wasim, meanwhile, has announced himself open to offers from other counties after Lancashire's decision: "If someone wanted to sign me for next year and the year 2000 then that would be great, but I don't want to hang around playing after that," he said.

"I've had some fantastic times with Lancashire and I'm going to miss the place so much, the club, the dressing-room and being part of it all. I don't think I've got a single bad memory of my time here."

"I wanted to stay but they decided on Murali, which is fine by me, and if we can win our third trophy at the end of the season then that would be a dream come true."

"Muralitharan is one of the best

off-spinners in the world and there is no doubt he's a match-winner. I think he will fit in well in the Lancashire dressing-room because he's very bubbly and he's always laughing," Wasim said.

Muralitharan produced one of the great performances in Test history earlier this month by claiming 16 wickets for 220 runs, the fifth-best figures of all time, to help Sri Lanka complete an emphatic 10-wicket victory over England at The Oval. He has taken 88 wickets in eight Tests this year – more than any other player.

Leicestershire's hopes of winning a second County Championship title in three years are being threatened by an injury to Alan Mullally, their last left-arm bowler – and the

unpredictable English weather. Mullally, who will tour Australia this winter with England, could miss his side's penultimate game against bottom of the table Essex at Grace Road today with a calf strain. He will have a fitness test this morning before a decision is made. James Ormond is standing by.

Essex, champions in 1996, lead Surrey – who they face at The Oval in the final game of the season next week – by five points, with treble-chasing Lancashire three points back in third.

Rain and high winds are expected in the Leicester area over the next four days and the Leicestershire manager, Jack Birkenshaw, said: "It's becoming an exciting finish to the season but because of

the weather forecast, things are very much in the lap of the Gods. Hopefully, we'll get a fortnight's decent weather for everyone and may the best team win."

"It's in our hands now and we've got to play like we can. Essex have got some useful players and they'll be looking to redeem themselves after losing the Sunday League. They certainly won't roll over."

At the Riverside, Durham take on Surrey with the 26-year-old Martin Suggs given his first appearance of the season. He takes over from Marc Symington, who made his Championship debut against Derbyshire, while Steve Harrison returns in place of Neil Killeen, who suffered a knee injury against Glamorgan on Sunday.

Gloucestershire are expected to keep faith with the side that defeated Northamptonshire inside two days as they aim to keep their faint Championship title hopes alive against Middlesex at Lord's today. The Bristol club are in fourth place, 21 points behind Leicestershire, and their attack will be spearheaded by Courtney Walsh, who has 89 first-class wickets and is looking to take 100 in a season for the second time.

Yorkshire's Darren Gough will again be on the injured list as Dickie Bird umpires in his final first-class match when Warwickshire visit Headingley. Brian Lara, the visiting captain, is out of the game with an injured left knee, and is replaced by Trevor Penney.



Muralitharan: One-season deal

■ Shane Warne, the Australia leg-spinner, hopes to be fit for the first Ashes Test against England in late November. He said the progression of his reconstructed shoulder was ahead of schedule.

JAVICO 150

German machine splutters to a halt

Berti Vogts' resignation has left one of the world's football superpowers in crisis. By Imre Karacs in Bonn

VISITORS TO Germany might have been excused for thinking that a grave natural catastrophe had befallen the country on Monday night. As television stations dumped their peak-time programmes, dark-suited men filled the screens, addressing the nation in sombre tones.

The sense of crisis is palpable. After the sudden – if not entirely unexpected – resignation of Berti Vogts, the national football team is rudderless. The first qualifier in the European Championship is only a month away and the only candidate available and deemed good enough yesterday turned down the job. The captain, Oliver Bierhoff, is already fretting about "chaos".

His concern, and the anguish of his countrymen, is understandable. Other countries may hire and fire their national team managers on a whim, but Germany prefers stability and continuity. Promotion here tends to be on the strict "dead man's shoes" principle and the incumbent, as was the case with Vogts, enjoys a "lifetime contract".

Hence, the event Germans are witnessing is rare indeed. There have been fewer German national coaches than there have been German chancellors, Vogts was

only the sixth since 1923 and only the second to fall on his sword. And worst of all, his demise leaves no obvious successor in place.

Vogts' assistant, Rainer Bonhof, has had a lower profile than the grass at Borussia Dortmund's pitch. He announced he was applying yesterday, but clearly did not think he was in with much of a chance. "You cannot expect that the tradition, whereby the assistant on previous occasions became the coach, will be followed," he said.

The youth coaches – the other possibilities – are widely blamed for bringing German football to its current predicament: the Old Boys' team had to represent the country in France because the youngsters were not good enough. Youth trainer Uli Stielike has also conceded that he has not worked for the national outfit long enough to enter the reckoning.

Other potential bosses were busy yesterday talking themselves out of the job. Franz Beckenbauer, Vogts' predecessor, said he was totally uninterested, and no longer had "the feel for the bench". Ottmar Hitzfeld, Christoph Daum and Otto Rehhagel declared themselves handclapped to their present clubs – Bayern Munich,



Berti Vogts, seen here during his final days as German national coach, resigned on Monday in order to preserve his 'human dignity' AP

Leverkusen and Kaiserslautern respectively. No other Bundesliga coach is deemed fit for the task.

Unfortunately for German football, the one unemployed, world-class coach who might have filled the gap ruled himself out yesterday evening. Jupp Heynckes, sacked by Real Madrid at the end of last season for winning nothing but the Champions' League for the Spanish club, had come highly recommended, but decided to turn down the offer because his wife had just been taken to hospital. "She needs another operation," Heynckes explained, when asked if he was interested in coaching Germany. "I have other concerns at the moment."

Egidius Braun, the 73-year-old president of the Deutscher

Russball-Bund (DFB), spent a nervous day on the telephone canvassing suitable candidates. It would not look good if the five other men on the board deciding the appointment had to give it to the first comer, but that might be the outcome.

The reason nobody is in a hurry to take up Vogts' place on the bench can be found in the parting words of the outgoing coach. He had to leave, Vogts said, in order to preserve his "human dignity". It was a reference to the hounding he had been subjected to by the press, particularly by *Bild* Zeitung, the country's leading tabloid.

For that and other reasons, the mission ahead seems all but impossible. After last week's miserable performances against Malta – a hard-earned 2-1 win – and Romania, a lucky

1-1 draw – the team is clearly heading for disaster on its first competitive outing in Turkey. A coach must be found soon, and so acute is their need that officials have not excluded the possibility of hiring a foreigner. They have promised to make a decision by the weekend.

Whoever is picked, change is in the wind. The DFB's well-oiled machinery has been spluttering, the organisation is in disarray, and the kids are not coming through. By exacting German standards, one trophy in eight years – Euro 96 – the DFB has failed to deliver the goods.

After Vogts' resignation, the DFB must seize the opportunity and introduce professional structures," urged Willi Lemke, Werder Bremen's manager. The most important priority, many coaches are saying, is to

discover the Klinkmanns of tomorrow, if not today.

There are some people who already claim to have found them, in an environment where few have been prepared to look. Germans have been deeply impressed by the spectacle of a motley collection of Africans, South Americans and Polynesians running amok at the World Cup in the colours of France and the Netherlands. There are more than 7 million non-Germans living in Germany, their children pack the village teams all over the country, and some of them grow up to become valued Bundesliga players. Why is it, people ask, that the likes of Bayern's Mehmet Scholl cannot get into the national team? Is there, by any chance, a racial barrier operating in German football?

To some extent, Berti Vogts has himself given an answer to that sensitive question. His last-throw squad assembled for his farewell friendlies featured not one but three Germans of foreign origin. The most promising of the newcomers is Mustafa Dogan, the son of Turkish immigrants, who is plying his trade with Fenerbahce of Istanbul.

Dogan is a thoroughly German-style defender, aged 22, who is already hailed as a worthy successor to the great Jürgen Kohler. Why he has never been capped is inexplicable.

He may now get his chance in that crucial match against the country of his parents on 10 October, a match that is set to herald a new beginning for German football, and not just in respect of the manager.

Dutchman 'scared' says Beasant Clemente goes on the attack

BY MARK PIERCESON

DAVE BEASANT, the Nottingham Forest goalkeeper, has accused the striker Pierre Van Hooijdonk – who left the City Ground before the start of the season claiming the club lacked ambition and would be relegated – of being scared to play in the Premier League.

The Forest No 1 believes the Dutchman is frightened of playing among English football's elite. "It might be one of these things that over the summer he has been to the World Cup and thinks he is a better player than

he is," Beasant said. "I just think he might have a few doubts about his ability to perform in the Premier Division."

"He scored goals in the Premiership in Scotland. He didn't score goals when Forest went down – he played about 13 times and scored one goal. He scored a lot of goals last season and his profile and his earning potential are very high."

"He might have felt he might not score many goals with Forest this season, so his earning potential might go down."

The former Wimbledon and Southampton keeper is con-

vinced the Dutch international's behaviour has helped the side in their first season back in the Premiership. He believes that Van Hooijdonk is already regretting his decision to stay away from Nottingham.

"I think it has helped us as a team," Beasant said. "Individually there will be some people who might say 'If he was here, it might have been better'."

But on the whole, I think the players have come together and said 'Pierre has decided to take the action, we're not in agreement with it. He thinks he is better than we are, better

than the club, so let's show Pierre what we can do without him."

Nicolas Anelka has apologised to his Arsenal teammates Marc Overmars and Dennis Bergkamp after being quoted as claiming that Overmars always passed to his Dutch colleague. Yesterday he insisted that the comments were made with his tongue firmly in cheek.

"I made a joke but it was taken out of context. I could not believe the trouble it caused," the 18-year-old Anelka said. "What I said then was that

Marc Overmars was sometimes a little too individual. Then I made a joke."

"With a smile I said that when Marc does pass, he passes more to Dennis Bergkamp than me because they are both from Holland."

Honestly, it was a joke. I was not being serious. There was no intention to upset Marc or Dennis," Anelka said.

The Frenchman has vowed to be wary of any future "jokes" in interviews and said: "The problem was that my answer was taken out of context and people are upset."

THE SPANISH coach Javier Clemente maintained his humour yesterday as everyone from supporters to politicians voiced their opinion on his future in the game.

The issue of Clemente's continued presence as national team coach has become a political football in Spain following a 3-3 defeat to Cyprus in Saturday's European Championship qualifying match.

Esperanza Aguirre, the minister for education and sports, called for the Spanish football federation to take action in the wake of a defeat she described as "unthinkable".

"I'm convinced that at this time the whole of the federation are thinking very seriously about the immense disappointment that all fans are suffering and I'm sure the federation will have to take measures," Aguirre said.

Clemente responded by telling Aguirre to mind her own business.

"I think there are much more important measures that need to be taken for the good of the country," the coach said. "It seems to me that before you

look at football there are 15 or 20 urgent measures to be taken."

"Worrying about measure number 20 and forgetting the 15 or 19 necessary for the people of our country seems to be a little exaggerated."

Nevertheless, within a short time I will tell Minister Aguirre, or the President, what measures they should take for the good of the country."

Press, pundits, politicians and the public have been falling over themselves to give their opinions about the beleaguered national coach, who has been under pressure since Spain's surprise first-round exit in the World Cup.

Clemente has been variously described as "a public enemy", "an embarrassment" and presiding over the worst team in the history of Spanish football.

But the Basque coach still has the backing of the Spanish federation and is almost certain to stay on in his job – at least until the friendly international against Russia on 23 September.

Three Belgian clubs consider merger

KORTRIJK AND Harelbeke, the Belgian First Division clubs, and Second Division side Waregem are considering a merger, Kortrijk's chairman said yesterday.

"We now have to draw up a protocol saying we're going to merge and give the timing and funding that can be generated," Jacques Lavigne, the Kortrijk chairman, told local radio.

He said the newly-formed club could kick off next season although Geert Sustronck, the

Harelbeke chairman, was quoted as saying more time would be needed. Harelbeke's mayor told the radio station he was opposing a merger deal but added he was not in a position to prevent it. Harelbeke and Kortrijk are currently ranked seventh and 17th respectively in the 18-team First Division. Waregem are 15th in the Second.

Two players have been given five-game bans after being sent off in European competitions.

Alexandre Khatskevitch, of Dynamo Kiev, was suspended following his red card for butting a Sparta Prague player during the Champions' League qualifying match on 12 August. He will sit out Kiev's first five Champions' League matches.

Foral Ballin, of Romania's Otelul Galati, was given his ban for gesturing at an opponent following his second yellow card in a UEFA Cup qualifying round match against Vejle BK of Denmark on 28 August. Vejle won

the tie 6-0 on aggregate and Ballin's ban will carry over until his team next qualifies for European competition.

Five players were given four-match bans, although Internazionale's Sergio A are appealing against Francesco Totti's ban.

The Romanian goalkeeper, Valentin Bargan, was transferred from Rocolta Laza to their fourth division rivals, Steaua Buda, yesterday. The signing-on fee was 11,000 lei (£220) – and a truck-load of firewood.

Ronald Henning, the Austrian club was knocked out of the UEFA Cup and the bans will carry over. The other players given four-match bans were Arno Turpeinen, of HJK Helsinki, and Samsunspor's Tuncer Metin.

The Romanian goalkeeper, Valentin Bargan, was transferred from Rocolta Laza to their fourth division rivals, Steaua Buda, yesterday. The signing-on fee was 11,000 lei (£220) – and a truck-load of firewood.

Durable Elway seals victory Spain suffers from Tour legacy

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

BY MATT GATWARD

LESS THAN eight months after leading the Denver Broncos to a Super Bowl victory, Terrell Davis and John Elway were at it again on Monday night as they helped the defending champions to their 11th consecutive win over the New England Patriots, 27-21.

Davis rushed for 75 yards, 82 fewer than he amassed in winning Super Bowl Most Valuable Player in January. But he ran or two touchdowns, giving him seven in four games against the Patriots.

Elway, the 38-year-old quarterback, began what may be his final season with better numbers than he posted in his first Super Bowl triumph. He completed 22 of 34 passes for 257

yards and a score, beating his 123 yards and no touchdowns in the 31-24 upset of the Green Bay Packers at San Diego in the Super Bowl.

"This was a big game against a conference team that we might end up seeing again down the road," Elway said. "We've got to take it one game at a time, just like last year. We really don't feel the pressure to repeat."

The Broncos coach, Mike Shanahan, said: "He's pretty durable. He's proven it year after year. They did get some hits on John today. Hopefully, he's not too sore and he can recover because we're faced with a short week."

Drew Bledsoe had a solid game for New England, hitting 20 of 32 passes for 259 yards and two touchdowns. "I don't want to take anything away from

the Broncos, but I felt we could have made it very interesting if we hadn't made all the mistakes," Bledsoe said. "I hope we get a chance to play them again at the end of the year."

A one-yard touchdown run by Davis gave Denver a 27-14 lead with 12 minutes left in the fourth quarter. Bledsoe replied with a 10-yard scoring strike to Vincent Brisby with two minutes to play, but the Patriots – out of timeouts by the middle of the third quarter – were unable to recover the onside kick and Denver ran out the clock.

"Denver are a tremendous football team. We needed to play a terrific game to win and we just didn't do that," Pete Carroll, the Patriots coach, admitted. "We made it too difficult on ourselves at times, whether it was a penalty or a miscue."

The Patriots began life after Curtis Martin, their leading rusher over the previous three seasons who signed as a free agent for the New York Jets. Their starting rusher, Sedrick Shaw, managed just 25 yards on seven carries, but the rookie Robert Edwards rushed 13 times for 50 yards and a score as New England was slightly outgained on the ground, 91 yards to 81.

Their kicking fared little better as Adam Vinatieri, who missed a 39-yard field goal, also had a 37-yard attempt blocked early in the second quarter. Troy Brown kept them in the game, coming off the bench and catching five passes for 97 yards and a touchdown in an effort to ease the absence of Ben Coates, who had limped out of the second quarter with an injured ankle, but Elway steered the Broncos to victory.

DRUGS IN SPORT

THE DRUG scandals that blighted the Tour de France returned to haunt the Tour of Spain yesterday after the publication in the French media of admissions by Festina riders that they had taken banned products.

Festina, who include the reigning world champion, Laurent Brochard, and Richard Virenque, a four-times winner of the Tour de France King of the Mountains title, were thrown out of the Tour de France after their team director admitted to authorising drug-taking within the world No 1 team.

Both the French Cycling Federation (FFC) and the Swiss federation, who have three riders in Festina, are still investigating the alleged use of

performance-enhancing drugs by the team, and judicial inquiries are still under way.

But the whole affair was blown wide open once again when the French newspaper *France-Sport* published extracts of verbal submissions by Festina riders to police in Lyon in July. Lille's first deputy prosecutor, Gerald Vinsonneau, said the extracts were genuine.

Seven of the riders interviewed admitted to organised doping within the team and taking the banned substance EPO. But Virenque and Pascal Hervé still deny any doping offences. Vinsonneau stressed EPO is employed in medicine to treat kidney disease but it can also be used to increase oxygen-carrying red blood cell levels, helping to improve endurance.

The results of the various tests of blood, hair and urine

samples will not be available until early next month, according to Vinsonneau, who added that the examining magistrate, Patrick Kell, might again interview the riders in the weeks ahead.

Vinsonneau said the goal of the inquiry into the affair was to determine the source of the doping products and how they were administered to the riders.

The *France-Sport* article enraged the Swiss rider, Alex Zülle, who recently lost a sponsorship deal in the wake of the drugs scandal and diverted attention from the performance of early Tour of Spain race leader Laurent Jalabert of Once. Jalabert and Once were also drawn into the affair by implication when Zülle revealed that EPO was also taken while he was riding with the Spanish team before he switched to Festina.

The French government yesterday created its own team to tackle the problem of drugs in sports.

The working group includes leading figures from sports medicine, law and sociology, including the presidents of the National Commission of the Order of Doctors, the French Society of Sports Doctors and the National Order of Pharmacists.

The group is to make a preliminary report in mid-October, one month before the National Assembly's second reading of a new anti-doping law, and present its final recommendations by April 1999, officials said.

The Italian rider Fabrizio Guidi won the 173.5km fourth stage of the Tour of Spain, from Malaga to Granada, yesterday. Guidi also took over the race lead from Jalabert.

TODAY'S NUMBER

5,000

The weight in kilograms of dirty washing the Commonwealth Games laundry section expects to have to deal with every day.

JAVIERO 1350



SPORT



GERMANY'S VOGTS OF NO-CONFIDENCE P24 • DICKIE'S LAST WALK TO THE PAVILION P20

Merson move angers Robson

BY NICK HARRIS

PAUL MERSON yesterday completed his £6.75m move from Middlesbrough to Aston Villa and provoked an angry reaction from Bryan Robson, the Boro manager, over the reasons he cited for leaving the North-east.

Merson said he left Teesside partially because he wanted to escape an environment where he may be tempted to return to gambling and drinking. "I don't go around preaching to people to stop drinking and stop gambling, that's going to happen everywhere," he said. "[The Middlesbrough players] are not gambling £10,000 or £20,000 but some of them like a bet and I can't just go into the dressing-room and tell them to stop."

The 30-year-old England midfielder, a recovering alcoholic who also has a history of gambling and drugs problems, added: "It goes much deeper than that, and I just had to get out of that environment."

"But I am not jumping off anyone who says that is out of order. My conscience is clear. I went down from Arsenal to get them out of that division."

Robson was furious at Merson's move. "This club has been over backwards to help Paul Merson whenever he needed it. I am disappointed by his attitude and feel let down. I've been at clubs which have been running card schools on the way to the game, but we don't even do that here. To say his fellow professionals drink and gamble is total nonsense."

Merson moved to Middlesbrough in July last year for £4.5m after 13 years at Arsenal. Having made a recovery after years of personal problems, he earned an international recall, helped Boro win promotion to

the Premier League and took part in the World Cup. He was first reported to be considering leaving the North-east last week, as his relationship with Paul Gascoigne, a fellow England player with a history of personal problems, reportedly deteriorated. It has also been confirmed, however, that the Villa manager, John Gregory, had been approached by Merson's agent about his availability before the player made his potential health concerns public.

As Merson prepares to start a new chapter in his career - he was not signed in time to make his debut against Newcastle United tonight - there seem to be more questions than answers over precisely why he has chosen now to move.

"There is a lot going on behind the scenes, things which I don't want to go into," he said. "I hope the fans don't get the hump because if they believe what they read then they will think that I walked out."

He is adamant that there was no possibility of him moving to Tottenham. "I didn't ask to leave Middlesbrough. They let me go," Merson said. "They tried to sell me to Tottenham, probably because there was the chance of a player swap. But I didn't want to go to Tottenham. If Aston Villa hadn't have come in for me I would have stayed."

Merson becomes Villa's second most expensive player after £7m signing Stan Collymore and now there are doubts over whether he has a future at Villa Park. Gregory dropped a hint that Collymore's days may be numbered when he said: "I think our striker Julian Joachim needs someone of the experience of Paul Merson alongside him."

More football, pages 24 and 25



Paul Merson, flanked by the Aston Villa manager John Gregory (left) and director Mark Ansell, completes his £6.75m transfer from Middlesbrough yesterday

United face supporters' wrath

BY GUY HODGSON

MANCHESTER UNITED are bracing themselves for an outpouring of frustration tonight by supporters opposed to BSkyB's proposed £575m takeover of the club. They meet Charlton Athletic at Old Trafford amid growing local antipathy toward the deal.

A small demonstration took place on Monday evening but tonight will be the first time that United fans meet en masse. There will be more than 55,000 at Old Trafford and the vast majority are against the deal. The targets will be the club's chief executive, Martin Edwards, and Rupert Murdoch, the major shareholder in BSkyB.

"I haven't met anyone who supports what's going on," Lee Hodgkins, secretary of the Independent Manchester United Supporters Association (IMUSA), said. "I've heard a few fans on the radio saying that we can buy Ronaldo and do all sort of wonderful things, but I think they're taking a short-term and selfish view."

"There will be a cost, just as there has been since the club went public in 1991. The price has been paid by younger local fans who have found access to Old Trafford has been put out of reach."

IMUSA, who will distribute thousands of leaflets this evening, met last night to formalise how to express their opposition but already there

have been calls from other fans to boycott Murdoch's newspapers and to return subscriptions for his satellite television broadcasts. "I'll not take up my season ticket next year if he takes over," one supporter outside Old Trafford said yesterday.

Edwards and Maurice Watkins, a director and a solicitor, had a meeting with the club's financial advisers in London until the early hours of yesterday and a full meeting of the Pic board will convene some time today. There are reports, however, that Edwards has already accepted BSkyB's offer of around £255p a share.

Meanwhile the manager, Alex Ferguson, who knew nothing about the takeover until Sunday, has been

preparing to meet Charlton, the surprise Premiership leaders, with the attention of the football world centering off the field rather than on it. Yesterday he insisted that no matter how vehement the demonstration is before the kick-off, supporters will refocus once the whistle goes.

"I don't think the fans will take it out on the team," he said. "They recognise it's nothing to do with the players. It's Manchester United they'll be watching and that's the important thing."

"There has been great loyalty shown by the players over the years and that has been shown by the fact they've signed long contracts. They love the club, as I do myself, and I think the supporters recognise that."

Ferguson agreed the atmosphere had changed this week but that it had not affected his staff. "It's a Pic thing and we're cut off from all that," he said. "The players have got on with training and I've got a million things to do during the day. It's been business as usual."

"You read about it in the paper and obviously you hope that anything that happens is good for the club and for the supporters. Really that is all I know."

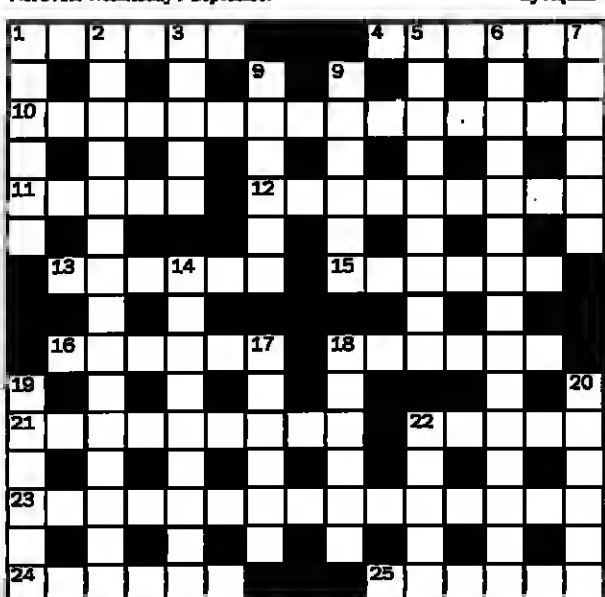
United's Nicky Butt will miss tonight's match against Charlton as he recovers from dental surgery. Jesper Blomqvist, the £4.5m signing from Parma during the summer, is fit again and will be on the substitutes' bench.

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3711, Wednesday 9 September

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



ACROSS

- 1 The Circle Line scheme (6)
- 4 Reluctant, in church, to dress up (6)
- 10 New style of farmhand in Welsh air (4, 2, 2, 7)
- 11 Breaking nose, as-sailant ends attack (5)
- 12 Goes away and tidies up room (6, 3)
- 13 Great landlords have Ibsen's spirits (6)
- 15 Dialogue that is in early film (6)
- 16 Illicit affairs of prophet going round ancient city (6)
- 18 Passage has Goya composition in view, oddly (6)
- 21 Pressure unstable in

DOWN

- 2 cartons (9)
- 3 Peter out, clothed in gold, for so long (5)
- 4 Reliable sort forget Northwest trip? (5, 2, 8)
- 5 Shifts what is counter-felt on board (6)
- 6 Joint capital of one in Hardy novel (6)
- 7 One gapes as celebrity goes before the queen (6)
- 8 Everyone in tug is fat (6)
- 9 Answering me, they adapted US novelist (6, 9)
- 10 Marsupial on street needs a place to settle (5)
- 11 Eleventh-hour revival of the side (9)
- 12 Omar Khayyam's pathetic index? (3, 6, 6)
- 13 False tears, perhaps, at zoo's opening (6)
- 14 Shifts what is counter-felt on board (6)
- 15 Fruit produce? (6)
- 16 Boarded up, say, in out-building (9)
- 17 County employees (6)
- 18 Affected ways of Virginia, with tiny changes (6)
- 19 Sea-duck spotted in Tabasco territory (6)
- 20 Peter's first doorkeeper, an aggressive sort? (6)
- 22 Ward off, say, on time (5)

Pleat in pursuit of new happiness

DAVID PLEAT has promised to put the smile back into the Tottenham dressing-room while he is in charge of team affairs. The club's director of football has assumed the role of first-team coach until a successor is found to Christian Gross, who was sacked on Saturday.

Pleat hinted that Spurs would be a better place of work for the players under his rule than it was under that of his Swiss predecessor, who some feel may have had a communication problem with his players.

"I might have to say one or two things to the players in an English they understand," Pleat said. "They can relate to me - I am not into poetry or Shakespeare or Churchill's war memoirs, and I don't throw cold water buckets over them or whatever you have to do to get them going."

"There is a banter within that dressing-room that has to be understood. There are innuendoes and all sorts of things. Footballers are a strange breed and are of a certain culture."

Pleat also admitted there were times when he wanted to interfere in the way Gross ran the team but was unable to, which suggested he and Gross did not have a particularly good working relationship.

He said: "There was one particular occasion when I was sitting in the stand and I wanted to go and give some advice to Christian, and it was very frustrating. There was one particular game when I felt sure I could have helped."

"This director of football job

can be done if there is sense on all sides. When Lawrie McMenemy was at Southampton he used to watch the games, because I do believe you need an overview. He would go down at half-time and have two minutes with Alan Ball in the boot room before he went in and spoke to the players."

"You can concur at half-time very quickly and give the manager one thing he needs to do, such as saying: 'Keep Ginola on the touchline'. I don't see it as an awkward position if you can relate to people. It is only if you get jealous of people and want to take their job, and that is not what I came here for."

Pleat, who was one of Tottenham's more successful managers during his spell in charge at White Hart Lane towards the end of the Eighties, is relishing his temporary new role in the hot seat.

"I see my job description as having to maintain and revive the spirit and confidence; win one or two games and keep steady; don't shout too much, don't cry too much; just get on with the business and give the club a chance to find a realistic successor who genuinely can take the club forward," he said. "I shall try and enjoy it, although it is difficult when the pressure is on. If you feel you are capable, you shouldn't deny yourself the opportunity to do the job when you are asked to do it."

"Sometimes, what goes around comes around, and I am pleased to be here. I have come to terms with lots of things and as long as I am calm and sensible about this, we will be okay."

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WEDNESDAY REVIEW

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The junkie will see you now

A study in *The Lancet* tells us that 60 per cent of doctors drink too much. My reaction was to wait for the punch line, but that was apparently it. Still reeling from that revelation, we were told that 10 per cent of junior doctors use other substances like Ecstasy or amphetamines, which led to a lot of tut-tutting on GMTV that morning. Certainly it is nice to hope that the doctor treating you is not completely off their head, but if anyone close to me was in a casualty department with an acute "recreational" drug reaction, it would also be nice if the doctor treating them had some personal experience of the issues involved. More worrying than the small *Lancet* survey is the British Medical Association's estimate of 9,000 doctors at any one time needing help for addictions of one kind or another. I was one of those 9,000, although someone else, at least for now, has taken my place.

The trouble with addiction is that it's just such a logical thing to do. You discover something that makes you feel good - you want to do it again, if you've any sense. If you happen to be addicted to parascending or rock-climbing, it looks good on your CV. If you happen to be addicted to controlled pharmaceuticals, it can lead to all sorts of problems. Being a logical person, when I discovered that a few mls of fentanyl (a synthetic morphine-like drug taken in a glass of orange juice would make a night on call as a junior anaesthetist a complete doddle, I started to do it on a regular basis. I was never "stoned", at least to start with. It would just ease that ache across the shoulders, and would make the pager bleeping at 4am a little more bearable. Then things drifted a little. I started taking stuff home in the evenings to help me relax. And then at weekends. And then because I was studying like crazy for the most arduous set of exams I had ever sat (all of which I passed). And then I started taking fentanyl for any excuse whatsoever. Most of the time I just took it to feel roughly normal, but since I was using in one shot (intra-nasally by now) more than the average patient would get through in a two-hour general anaesthetic, "normal" is one thing I definitely wasn't.

Then, inevitably, I was caught. At a strange hospital where I was doing a week's locum (for the drugs, you understand, not the money), someone saw me pocket a syringe and the police were called. Eventually, it was decided no charge would be made against me and I was only cautioned. But it was also the end of my career in anaesthetics, and the beginning of the worst three years of my life. I was suspended from work, naturally, and also referred by the police to the General Medical Council.

The GMC has a very polite way of doing things, and I was sent a letter inviting me to refrain from medical practice, and placing me under the supervision of a consultant psychiatrist. During the entire time I was under GMC supervision, when the most intimate details of my personal background were discussed between them and my supervising psychiatrist, I never once received let-

Recent revelations about the startling number of doctors addicted to drugs came as no surprise to **Dr Martin Hatcher**. As a junior anaesthetist, he couldn't get through the day without them

ters from anyone other than a member of the administrative staff there. The letters only referred to "The Screener", an Orwellian term for the GMC's screener for health, who always remains anonymous. I have since been told that this is to protect "Screeners" from attack by mad, drunken, disgruntled doctors whom they refuse to allow to practice. (I now treat mad, drunken, disgruntled patients every day, but like all other doctors in the real world, I don't have the privilege of anonymity.) At the end of 1997, the GMC had 181 doctors under supervision which, according to the BMA figures, leaves a lot unaccounted for.

The psychiatrist whose supervision I was under was very straightforward. Common sort of thing, anaesthetists hooked on opiates. Quick course of methadone, Bob's your uncle. Maybe a bit of counselling. Then keep your nose clean for a while and find a new career path. I almost started to look forward to it. Unfortunately my "counsellor" had never dealt with an addicted doctor before, and seemed to regard me as some sort of minor celebrity. So I was advised not to take part in any of the group sessions. Then the methadone stopped. Then my "new career" was suggested as psychiatry itself, mainly it seemed because none of the drugs on offer are the type people take through choice.

The next couple of years are still, thankfully, a bit of a blur. I stumbled through a few crappy jobs with little or no help. Doctors with drug problems don't get plum jobs - the crappy ones are the only ones left. I bought a lot of cocaine cough linctus, fiddled a lot of prescriptions, and faked a lot of urine tests. One of the patients I saw for a while was a former consultant psychiatrist still fighting an obviously lost battle with drink. He, too, was under GMC supervision. His supervising consultant was the one I was working for at the time, but the two hardly ever met. Instead, this by then pathetic figure was palmed off on to me. We exchanged platitudes once a fortnight for a short time, and then he died. Such is the care lavished on the profession by their own.

The low point must have been that morning my long-range pager went off because I was late for my psychiatry out-patient clinic. I knew there were 10 depressed patients waiting to see me. The reason I was late was because I was wandering around B&Q looking for a suitable piece of piping to fit in the car exhaust. One that

was also long enough to reach the car window. I was worried that an ordinary hosepipe might melt or something. It's strange how the mind works at such times.

But, as you'll have guessed by now, the car exhaust plan was never followed through. Instead, with the help of people around me I realised I wasn't getting the treatment that was right for me. So I requested and, unusually, got a change of supervisor. I also got to see another counsellor, who was less susceptible to bullshit than the previous one. (Being impervious to the complete load of toss that addicts use as excuses for their behaviour is a prerequisite to being a good drugs counsellor.) My life is not perfect. I do not, however, need to resort to controlled drugs any more. I hold down a responsible and stressful job in acute medicine, and the people I work with know about my past.

The authors of the *Lancet* paper question whether it is time to do what they do in the US, and start random testing of doctors for drugs. But such tests do not appear to have had much impact on the use of prohibited substances within sport, and if anyone knows how to falsify a urine test, it's a doctor. My own opinion is the only thing that will help doctors who abuse substances is a change in the culture. A change which recognises that this problem has always existed, and allows the topic to be discussed in something other than shocked whispers. A change that would mean coming forward for help did not mean an automatic letter from the GMC. Their new motto ("Protecting Patients, Guiding Doctors") is I suppose the right way round, and requires them to be able to instil fear into miscreants. But I cannot see how the sword of Damocles will encourage doctors to seek help. The protection of patients is simply mutually exclusive with the effective, early treatment of sick doctors.

We need an independent body that doctors know they can approach in confidence, and through which they will receive first-class advice and treatment. Better treatment than anyone, in fact, because we know every trick in the book. The BMA has a 24-hour counselling service, and there is also the National Counselling Service for Sick Doctors, both of which represent a start. How effective either is I cannot at the moment say. If I ever need to find out, I'll let you know.

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INSIDE	Letters	2	Features	9	Secretarial	15-16
	Leaders and comment	3-5	Arts	10	Radio	19
	Obituaries	6-7	Theatre	11	Satellite TV	19
	Fashion	8	Finance	12-13	Today's TV	20
					FINANCE	

Vivisection views

Sir: It is a relief that someone as eminent as Professor Stephen Hawking has defended the current need for vivisection ("Hawking defends tests on animals", 7 September). It is extremely unfortunate that no real alternative exists.

I once asked a vegan friend whether he used medicines (because inevitably they had been tested on animals). He told me that he didn't if they were recent additions to the market. When I asked what he would do if his young son had a disease that was fatal unless a new drug under trial was given, he admitted that he would want his son to live.

The problem of vivisection will not go away overnight but violence against scientists who are devoting their life to the advancement of medicine will not solve anything.
SARAH HUNTER
Diggle, Greater Manchester

Sir: Not so long ago, it was a "scientific fact" that newborn babies could not feel pain. Today, it is a "scientific fact" that the use of morphine for pain relief can lead to addiction. Both these "facts" have and continue to cause a great deal of human pain and suffering.

Your recent reporting on the protests at the Hill Grove cat breeding factory (Weekend Review, 5 September) and Stephen Hawking's beliefs on the value of vivisection make much of facts vs feelings - that protesters are sentimental fools and vivisectionists and their supporters are led by logic. In which case, one wonders why they don't use prisoners, the mentally ill, pensioners, the long-term unemployed and others whose burden on the state outweighs their monetary value. Being human, their response to environment, drugs, surgery and other treatments would result in far more accurate results and speedier trials, costing less, not least to the taxpayer.

The value we each put on life and suffering will always be subjective and this is partly due to the way society views that which is considered to be alive and capable of suffering, which is in itself subjective. Australian aborigines, American Indians, the poor and the Irish have all been considered sub-human, incapable of finer feelings, animals. Today, we view such opinion with disbelief, just as society views vivisection with revulsion. That the law condones vivisection does not mean that it is defensible. What changes such laws is, basically, compassion.

Compassion may be far too "sentimental", not nearly logical enough, but I know which society I'd prefer to live in.
CLARE PROUT
London W10

Sir: I am very interested in what Stephen Hawking has to say about physics but why I should be remotely interested in what a physicist has to say about ethics I don't know.
JOHN HINDLEY
London N1

Sir: Animals to be eaten are killed instantly at an abattoir. Animals to be used for medical experiments may suffer for hours, days, weeks.

If research and experiments are necessary, let them use people.
VINCENT VERE
London TW9

Man not United?

Sir: Martin Edwards and cohorts have contrived to tear the heart out of Manchester United Football Club. We have rarely played exciting football since the decline of Eric Cantona. The salary requirements of world class strikers are derided. Merchandising is prioritised over fan loyalty. For heaven's sake, a disc jockey is employed on match days who plays Oasis!

The club costs in twice that of its nearest rival, four times the premier league average, twice the revenue of Juventus and AC Milan

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Continuing our series on the Portuguese fishery, two young sailors sleep on deck as their boat returns to port at the end of a day's fishing. Rui Xavier

combined (who, curiously, can afford world-class salaries), and anticipates financial bonanzas from its own Pay TV station and from putative European leagues.

Must it now further humiliate its fans and sacrifice its soul at the altar of corporate power games? A change in the hierarchy and management style is welcome, but one that restores the vitality and culture of a once-wonderful football club.
PETER DAWSON
Ilkley, West Yorkshire

Sir: Any headline which includes the phrase "Blair must stop Murdoch..." (leading article, 7 September) is an exercise in futility of which Sisyphus would be proud. You could more profitably publish an editorial advocating the abolition of bad weather.
JOHN HALL
Dorset, Dorset, Shropshire

Is it possible that the extent of Rupert Murdoch's influence over our lives is overstated? Reading the Sun, watching satellite television and supporting Manchester United, although unsavoury, are non-compulsory.
MARK TAYLOR
Grantham, Lincolnshire

Elected monarchy

Sir: Quite apart from the literally nonsensical suggestion that a "monarchy" could ever be elective or anything other than strictly hereditary, the unthinkable thinkers of Demos have come up with a real peach with their idea that we must "break down the barriers" between royalty and the people so that they can not only symbolise the country but actually "become part of British life rather than just... observers" (The Independent on Sunday, 6 September).

This is ahistorical, unconstitutional tosh because the only thing symbolised by the British Crown is the

Establishment and all those who gladly accept their own undemocratic subservience to it. So what Demos has omitted completely from its proposal is any sense that this monarchy survives as the apex of an entrenched British class system.

The monarch reigns over us; we cannot pick and choose about this or who that monarch should be. There are no half-measures, least of all the moronic system proposed by Demos, which requires us to go on voting until we can find a royal that most of us are happy with. On the contrary, we retain the institution until we are ready to drop it lock, stock and double-barrel.

The burning question is: why does anybody pay Demos any money to do anything? They couldn't think themselves out of a paper bag.
TONY WALTON
Hove, East Sussex

Sir: Feeding the hungry with unnatural plants whose ability to sustain health has not been proven is a crime against mankind ("Crop engineering 'failing' the hungry", 4 September). If even a fraction of the money that is currently being poured into the search for chemicals and genes which will "cure" all ills were diverted into establishing sustainable agriculture based on local crops in all countries, we would no longer have ills to cure.

Of course, there is no profit in health.
GEORGE STODOLPH
Chairman, Scottish Consumer Association for Natural Food, Glasgow

Sir: John Burchell wants cyclists to use bells in central London (letter, 8 September). Unfortunately the feeble tinkle

Sir: I believe that the Belgian people rejected Leopold as their king in the 1930s, on moral grounds, following the death of his wife, the beautiful Queen Astrid, in a car accident - he driving.

They demanded that the throne be taken by his elder son, who reigned for many years, being much loved and respected.
Is this true?
IRENE BIRCH
Kirby, Merseyside

Christmas jeer

Sir: I would like to claim the first sighting of Christmas decorations for sale this season (John Lewis, Brent Cross, London, 10 am Monday 7 September).

This gives me a princely three months, two weeks and four days to decide between red and silver baubles and to plan the positioning of my manger scene, while also encouraging me to bypass autumn and assume stress levels more

commensurate with the so-called festive season.

Surely it is time for the consumer to take a stand against such ludicrous manipulation of our natural life patterns and explain to whoever makes these decisions that at this beautiful, comparatively peaceful and contemplative time of year their offensive display only makes us want to insert several Wise Men where the Christmas star don't shine.
CAROLYN BADHAM
London NW4

The Boer camps

Sir: John Stawson's comments (letter, 4 September) on John Pollock's Boer War article ring less than true. My wife's Boer grandmother often stated, of the Standerton concentration camp, in which she spent part of the war, that the epidemic did indeed have a cause in the lack of knowledge of hygiene of Boer women.

The Afrikaners have for decades spread the tale that "the British invented the concentration camp in the Boer War". It was in fact invented just before that war by the Spanish in Cuba.

The camps had little in common with the Nazi version, and were genuinely intended only to concentrate civilians away from the fighting, and prevent them supporting their guerrillas with food and shelter.
LEN CLARKE
Uxbridge, Middlesex

Tough on timber

Sir: PG Harris of the Timber Trade Federation (TTF) protests (letter, 7 September) about the lack of credit given to the UK timber industry for improving forest management, and points to its environmental timber purchasing policy as "a practical way of making progress with timber producers". Unfortunately this policy is deeply flawed.

Signatories to the TTF purchasing policy are required to seek documentary evidence of legal and well-managed forest sources. The problem is that this "evidence" usually amounts simply to claims from the logging companies themselves - some of whom have been convicted of illegally felling timber - that they are not involved in illegal or unsustainable logging.

Because of misleading green claims on timber products, Friends of the Earth is encouraging people to buy only timber with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) logo. This is the only effective independent certification scheme.

The UK Timber Trade could have an important role in helping to protect the world's forests, but its flawed purchasing policy is not the answer.
SARAH TYACK
Forest Campaigner
Friends of the Earth
London N1

Sir: I was at the AGM of the electronics giant GEC recently, and wasn't really surprised when the chair said that its exports of military equipment had not been affected by Labour's ethical foreign policy.

I wonder how Labour peer and GEC board member Lord Simpson of Dunkeld feels about his government's ethical foreign policy - is he pleased or disappointed that it has had no effect whatever?
BEN NIBLETT
Leicester

Sir: When firemen are paid by the fires they extinguish, they become arsonists. Now that scientists have to bid for money to support their research, we suffer a new health scare every month.
PETER SAUNDY
Longmynd, Powys

IN BRIEF

of a cycle bell would be all but inaudible against the background roar of London traffic.

In any case, if there is time to ring a bell there is time to take avoiding action. When a pedestrian steps out in front of you without looking, as frequently happens, you need both hands on the brakes. Shouting a warning is all that's left if an accident is to be avoided.

ANTHONY CAMPBELL
London N14

Sir: I should like to point out that I was sacked by XFM. I did not "walk", as was claimed in Steven Jelbert's article "World record holder" (31 August).
KEITH CAMERON
London W1

A midsummer day's ring interrupts the idyll of the king

FROM TIME to time I have brought you extracts from that fabulous lost Shakespeare play *The History of King Tony*, or *New Love's Labour Lost*, detailing the bumpy rise and rise of King Tony of Britain, and I am often asked if there is more where that came from. There certainly is, as follows...

The scene is somewhere in Tuscany. Enter King Tony, wearing a broad smile and broad pair of shorts, together with his Queen and men-at-arms. Tony: Come Queen, and find your ease upon this spot.

This is a lovely stretch of sward, where we may stretch our tired limbs and take our rest. A busy life it is upon the throne, but now and then a king must be alone. Cherie: Alone? Call this alone? Then who are these five silent men accompanying us, built like gorillas from the African jungle?
T: They are my bodyguards, as well you know.
C: To guard your body from what pressing danger? What enemy creeps upon us through the grass? Are you afraid of rivals here in Italy?

Thinkst thou Duke Gordon-Brown will find you here And strike you down, or that Lord Prescott might initiate some plot to have you slain And mount the throne he dearly wished was his?
T: No, no, my love, I fear them not at all!
C: Then tell your hulking men to keep away. Let us have at least one private day!

T: It is not my own wish, dear heart, that we should have this level of security. From earliest times it has been the thing to be close guarded, when one is a king. By men with walkie-talkies, ID passes, badly hidden guns and dark, dark glasses. A ringing noise is heard. Several of the men-at-arms leap to their feet, whip out guns and shoot wildly. King Tony produces a mobile phone. T: Nay, stay, sweet gentles, do not be alarmed! It is my mobile phone! We are not harmed!
C: Out, out, damned telephone! For it has ways to drag us early from our holidays!
King Tony listens intently to the phone, then rises. T: Alas, my Queen, the sun that bids us laze, The red, red wine that warms our English blood,



MILES KINGSTON
'Yea, even the cunning pasta in its myriad shapes Cannot suffice to fight against my duty'

Yea, even the cunning pasta in its myriad shapes, Cannot suffice to fight against my duty. C: And that is what? T: To go straight back to England,

Where Fenian rebels have caused unearthly carnage Upon the streets of Omagh, up in Ulster. At least, I think it's Omagh. The line was bad. C: But will it help? How can you be of aid Merely by striding through the Irish crowd And shaking hands with everyone you meet?

I have seen you seen smile, and nod, and weep. Until the cameramen did have their fill Of swooning shots of you, in grief, full face. And very well you do it too, right BAFTA-style. Yet must I ask again, how can it help? Stay here, my lord, in Tuscany, right here! And bring your family, not the Irish, cheer! T: I wish I could, sweet one, I wish I could. But I am told by Alastair on the line That Bill, the King of the Americas, Is winging his royal way even now To Ireland, to appear a man of peace And steal my thunder while I sunbathe here. I hate him!
C: Hate King Bill, your older brother? Hate the man whom you do oft embrace?

T: I am a friend to him as the sun to the moon. I hardly know him. Oh, yes, side by side. We often stand for portrait opportunities And smile and wink and nod. But after that He forgets my face, my name, my everything. I love him not. I hate him very much. And now he flies to Belfast in my absence To reap the praise that should be mine by right. C: For this you'd sacrifice a fortnight in the sun? T: To be the Irish man of peace? I would! I'd give the earth to be called King Tony the Good. They enact slowly, on their way back to England. From behind a tree, whence he has been watching them, comes the Duke of Livingstone. Ken: When I am voted Mayor of London Town, I'll bring this puffed up fellow crashing down! But no one must know that I was ever here! A bodyguard returns to retrieve a walkie-talkie and sees the Duke of Livingstone. Bodyguard: Fancy seeing you, red Ken! What cheer! Ezeunt severally.

More of this cultural milestone soon.

July 2015

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The Bank must cut interest rates, and quickly

MOST ECONOMISTS seem to expect the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee to leave interest rates at their present level after its two-day deliberations, which begin today. There are various reasons for this. There is still a general feeling that the Bank has to prove its "toughness", establishing its anti-inflation credentials in the markets. The Bank is naturally cautious about making a rapid U-turn on rates, especially at a time of such financial instability.

More specifically, earnings growth in Britain is still higher than the Bank would like, anxious about the implications of that for its ability to meet the Government's inflation target. Some on the committee fear a repeat of mistakes made in the wake of "Black Monday" in 1987, when rates were cut too soon and too deeply, allowing inflation to get out of hand.

These fears should no longer dominate policy. For one thing, the situation now is not like that of 1987. Global financial turbulence is an established deflationary force, with evidence emerging all over the world that recession, not inflation, is the foremost danger to prosperity.

With South-East Asia's economies still contracting, a wave of cheap imports and cheaper labour will break over the Western economies in the next year. Even more important, export markets will shrink, and world trade will become further depressed. Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the US Federal Reserve, is no dove on inflation; but even he has begun to hint that interest rates' next move will be down.

Similarly, on the domestic front no one has to look far to find signs of a slowdown. Up to a few weeks ago it was possible for the Bank to point to a vigorous service sector to justify higher rates, to restrain the boom in those services; now the sector seems about to follow manufacturing into stagnation. Earnings growth is slowing; high-street sales are flat; house prices are falling. In fact, as both trade unions and business leaders have argued in talks with the Government, British economic growth will slow over the next two years to almost nothing.

As Keynes once said, the prevailing view among economists is often dominated by the ghosts of the previous generation. In this case, central bankers are haunted by memories of the Seventies, when inflation roared out of control. But the situation is very different now. Labour market reforms, free investment flows and technological advance all make inflationary spirals less likely. Real interest rates are historically high; we are



entitled to ask whether this can be justified, if everything central banks have told us about the advantages of liberal capital markets is true.

The economy is slowing so quickly that a decisive cut in interest rates, of half a percentage point, should be on the agenda. This would prevent more money flowing into sterling, aiding its fall on the foreign exchanges and bringing relief to exporters. It would mean our economy moving marginally more into line with those in the euro bloc, aiding our ability to join them, should we wish. A rate cut would also stabilise the jittery stock market. There is an international aspect to the decision, too. Capital flight is forcing interest rates up around the

world, as governments compete to attract money into their currencies. Lower interest rates in Europe and the US are vital to restore confidence and reverse this process. The Prime Minister has called for a meeting of the G7 nations to discuss the world's unstable financial system; Britain could now give a signal of determined Western economic expansion, just when the developing markets of Russia, Latin America and Asia are crying out for it.

In fact, it is difficult to make any case for interest rates being maintained at their present level: the time is right to loosen monetary policy. The Monetary Policy Committee should cut interest rates, and quickly.

Democracy is the pill for Russia's ills

BORIS YELTSIN has twice put his candidate for prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, before the Duma and twice been rebuffed. As prices rocket and emergency supplies of oil, rice and flour disappear from shops, Yeltsin appears still to misunderstand fundamentally the purpose of Russia's so-called democracy: to create stability for its people and its economy. His stubbornness is having the opposite effect.

Chaos reigns. Three weeks without an effective government have brought the country to its knees financially. And its people, whose average life expectancy has fallen 10 years since 1989, are being put through the mill once again; the oldest and weakest, unable to travel and barter, suffer the most.

But two things are clear. In the short term, the obvious path is to make someone - anyone - prime minister, with Yevgeny Primakov, the foreign minister, at the head of the list. The instinct is to inject short-term stability in order to deal with the economy. But this is to ignore the underlying problem - politics, not economics, is at the root of this mess, and, until the right person is found to be prime minister, no guarantees can be made for the rouble. The initial tragedy was in Yeltsin's failure to persuade the Duma that his package for the economy was correct. Persuasion is an essential democratic skill, and Yeltsin failed.

So in the longer term would it not be better to allow the Duma to do its job? Although constitutionally Yeltsin has the whip hand, the Duma's doubts about Chernomyrdin could not be better founded. In his previous stint as prime minister he presided over six years of corruption and war. Russia may have no democratic culture, but it isn't going to develop one unless respect is accorded to its democratic institutions.

Ignoring the Duma now would be to compound the economy's problems. More democracy, not less, is the beginning of the answer.

Hare today...

SO ONCE upon a time, perhaps in the days of Brer Rabbit, there was such a thing as a racing tortoise - now extinct. However, whereas the dangers that faced the dodo (bird that couldn't fly away from predators) and face the giant panda (can't reproduce) are obvious, the racing tortoise would appear to have a tiny natural advantage in its speed. So what happened? Presumably, after giving his long-eared friend a good drubbing, he collapsed and died of exhaustion or something...

Electoral reform should not be designed simply to stuff the Tories

I HAVE always had a soft spot for Roy Jenkins. Although he tried to destroy the party I love when he set up the SDP I am part of that first generation that was able to see all the salacious plays and films that became available following his liberalisation of the censorship laws.

But for all his political skill and wisdom he seems to be about to make the classic political mistake that has sunk so many people before him. Faced with two irreconcilable positions on proportional representation, it looks as though he has decided to split the difference.

According to leaks from his commission on the voting system, it seems he is going to recommend keeping first-past-the-post for about 600 constituencies and restrict proportional representation to about 100 additional MPs drawn from party-list-approved lists. As a sop to the PR lobby, he is going to change the first-past-the-post electoral system so that, instead of voting for the candidate of your choice, you have to list all the candidates on your ballot paper in descending order of preference and modularity. This compromise would have the result of annoying virtually everybody both for and against PR.

Studies which have run this system through the computer based on last year's general election show that Labour would still have won a majority of over 60 seats, even though we only got 43 per cent of the vote. But depending on how people cast their second ballot for the party list, it is quite possible that you could achieve the bizarre result that the Liberals would have become the official opposition with more MPs than the Tories, even

though they gained half the number of votes that the Tories did.

As someone who has supported PR ever since the 1974 elections discriminated so massively against the Liberals, I have always believed that if we are to change the voting system there has to be an honest and transparent logic justifying that change.

Roy Jenkins's proposals look like a simple device to permanently stiff the Tories, whilst giving the party leadership huge and undemocratic powers of patronage over the pecking order of candidates on the party list. As we have seen in the scandalous decision of Labour's NEC to deny Labour Party members any say in the ranking order of candidates in next year's PR elections to the European Parliament, such a system is open to favouritism on a grand scale and would inevitably lead to even more toadyism by Labour MPs desperate to keep in the leadership's good books.

What is so depressing about all this is that only three or four years ago, it looked as though the Labour Party was moving towards a consensus behind introducing PR along the lines of the German system, which guarantees that the number of seats in parliament for each party closely reflects the number of votes cast in the election. Since then, Labour's stunning landslide has caused a lot of PR's fair-weather friends to fall by the wayside. The ghastly manipulation of the process of selecting candidates for the new Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly - along with the great Euro-fiddle - has caused a lot of supporters of PR to question whether the benefits of a fair voting system would not be outweighed by the huge in-



KEN LIVINGSTONE
Roy Jenkins will mobilise both sides of the PR argument against his shabby compromise

crease in powers of patronage of the party machines.

Into this much less certain situation Roy Jenkins's proposals are the worst of all possible worlds. They aren't proportional and they allow party leaders to get rid of any MPs they find insufficiently obsequious. The result is that, rather like the Labour government's doomed proposals to reform the House of Lords in 1968, Roy Jenkins is going to mobilise both sides of the argument against the shabby compromise on offer.

It could all have been so different. There is a clear and simple defence of first-past-the-post in that it gives strong government with working majorities more often than not. To defeat this argument the alternative system has to be both genuinely fair and simple to understand. There must be a clear moral basis for any change - simply stuffing the Tories is

not good enough. Those of us who support PR have to be able to show that any new system will produce a parliament that more closely resembles the wishes of the British electorate than the present one.

Although I was converted to PR long before Mrs Thatcher appeared on the scene, she firmly reinforced my commitment. After 11 years of Mrs Thatcher I had all the strong government I needed for one lifetime. The idea that Mrs Thatcher, with just 43 per cent of the vote, could transform British society in such a damaging and destructive fashion whilst the majority of the population consistently voted against her is the strongest argument for change. Under genuine PR, governments would have to persuade and win the support of other parties in public debate, rather than be able to ram through unpopular measures like the poll tax and abolition of the GLC by having the whips drive the government's mindless majority through the lobbies night after night.

In the German system, each elector has two votes. The first is cast for a local constituency MP in a straight-forward first-past-the-post ballot. Half the MPs are elected in this way. The second vote is cast for the party that you wish to see form the government. Once all the second ballots have been counted, the remaining 50 per cent of MPs are allocated to each party in the proportion necessary to bring their total number of MPs up to the percentage of votes cast in the second ballot. The result is that in German elections, seats in parliament are usually within one per cent of the votes cast by the electorate. This means no

vote is ever wasted. For a Labour voter in Huntingdon, their vote is as likely to help elect a Labour MP as it is for one in Hackney. The position in which many voters decide not to vote in safe seats would no longer exist. The days of Labour voters having to vote Liberal in safe Tory seats and vice versa would be gone. At a stroke, elections become a positive exercise in which you can vote for the party you wish without wasting your vote, and the negativism that leads half the electorate against a party rather than positively for one, would be gone.

The downside to the German system is that the MPs elected with the second vote are drawn from party lists and therefore subject to patronage. As the Hansard Society pointed out as long ago as 1976, it would be perfectly easy, in allocating the top-up MPs, to select them on the basis of the most narrowly-defeated candidate of each party being top of the list for the additional members. At a stroke this would rob the party machines of any further patronage. Each additional member would have to have been selected by a local constituency and to have fought as a candidate in the general election. In a country as large as Britain, it clearly makes sense that the top-up seats should be organised on a regional basis to ensure that each region of Britain is fairly represented.

I have no doubt that, left to his own devices, this is the system that Roy Jenkins would recommend. It is also the system the people of New Zealand voted for in two referenda and after years of debate. If we are going to change the voting system, let's get it right the first time, or the voters will lose patience.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Being Miss World is all about being feminine but you have got to have more than good looks and a good body. You also have to have brains."
Diana Hayden,
current Miss World

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Men's natures are alike; it is their habits that carry them far apart."
Confucius,
Chinese philosopher



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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Reaction to the continuing political crisis in Russia



YELTSIN'S NOTORIOUS duplicity means parliamentarians are aware of the need to have concrete measures in place before approving Chernomyrdin. To do otherwise would allow the

president to cheat them again. If Yeltsin were willing to compromise with elected representatives, the route out of the crisis would be so much simpler. *Moscow Times*

THE FAILURE on Monday of political leaders to take the first step towards halting the slide into greater economic crisis by agreeing on a new prime minister who could form a government which could begin to take control, has left Russians feeling dismayed and betrayed. Some of the hard-line Communists working to stop a government being formed are said to want a new revolution to return Russia to its Communist past. But few Russians appear to want that. Most sim-

ply want a government put in place which can begin dealing with the economic crisis before it becomes so bad that it destroys all the gains made since the fall of Communism. A break-up of Russia would be like the break-up of former Yugoslavia. But if this led to civil wars like those in Bosnia and Kosovo these would be civil wars with nuclear weapons. So it is not just the Russians who need a leader to emerge in Russia. So does the whole world. *Sydney Morning Herald*

VICTOR CHERNOMYRDIN may not be the ideal choice for prime minister, but at this moment of political and economic peril he would be better than the volatile vacuum of power that now exists. His rejection for a third and final time in the days ahead would most likely lead Yeltsin to dissolve Parliament and call new elections later this year. Given Yeltsin's unsteady leadership, Russia cannot afford more months of political paralysis. The Communists and their allies may be

bluffing, since many members of Parliament fear the loss of their seats and the privileges that come with them. But unlike earlier confrontations with Yeltsin, this time the Communists may sense electoral advantage in the growing economic turmoil and Yeltsin's unpopularity. It would not be the first time that the Communist Party tried to exploit economic hardship for its own advantage. Lenin perfected the strategy in 1917. *The New York Times*

PANDORA

SOME NEW Labour guests may have been slightly uneasy about the name of the venue, but they were putting up a brave front at Monday's One World Action charity evening at The Red Fort. A lavish spicy buffet was laid on by Amin Ali's trendy Indian restaurant, and duly attracted a huge queue of hungry politicians. The irony of this feast being served on behalf of a charity that aims to eliminate world poverty and hunger was not lost on one Labour politician. He quipped, "Ah well, another charity evening designed to make white people feel guilty."

THE JOKES continued after the last plate was scraped clean at The Red Fort. The newsreader Jon Snow hosted an entertainment that included the comedian John Hargy, plus some inept stage assistance from the former Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock, who recited limericks. Later, speaking of Snow, Glens Kinnock brought down the house with his line: "When we look at you on Channel 4 News, we always know you're impartial and we love you for it." What a whopper.

HOWARD DONALD, former member of the defunct rock group Take That, is launching his new band at the In The City indie rock music convention in Manchester on 14 September. As Pandora's younger readers will recall, the break-up of the boy band was acrimonious. A press release from In The City seems to hint at this: "It is not known whether Robbie and Gary will turn up to support their old mate. If they do, security will be on hand to keep them apart."

THE WRITER Martin Jacques hosted a Marxism Today conference in Haslemere, Surrey, last weekend, attended by



eminent intellectuals of the left. A high point came when dynamic, thrusting Geoff Mulgan, the young Downing Street policy adviser, formerly of the think-tank Demos, modestly corrected the eminent historian Eric Hobsbawm on a point of - yes - history. Seminar followed seminar from Friday evening through to Sunday afternoon. By Saturday evening, some of the group were growing increasingly restive. During the post-dinner session, featuring Will Hutton and Anatole Kaletsky, a man named Richard Wilkinson, professor of social epidemiology at Sussex University, moved to an open rear window and nonchalantly leapt out, landing in some bushes. When Pandora contacted him yesterday, Wilkinson explained: "I did not want to disturb people at the front. It was pretty late, and I was tired." In his shoes, no doubt Pandora would have done exactly the same.

HIS FANS at Associated Newspapers are saying that the Evening Standard editor Max Hastings' luck has improved. Though he was off on holiday for such momentous unforeseen events as the deaths of Diana, Princess of Wales, his editor-in-chief David English and the owner Lord Rothermere, he was definitely in the office on Monday afternoon in time to deliver the coup de grâce to Adam Edwards, whom he sacked as editor of the paper's popular ES magazine. The reason for Edwards' abrupt departure seems to be Hastings' desire for a "new direction", although what that means remains unclear. A new editor is not expected to be appointed for at least a month. In the meantime, the mood around the ES offices is said to be "bemused".

THE LEGENDARY Irish writer and drinker Brendan Behan, who died in Dublin in 1964, may soon have his rambunctious life celebrated in a Hollywood biopic directed by Sean Penn (pictured) and starring - wait for it - Leonardo DiCaprio. Penn, who has had a bit of rowdy fun in his time, including a stint as Madonna's husband, has apparently been keen to enshrine Behan on film for some time, and wanted to play the leading role himself. However, according to the New York Post, Penn and DiCaprio have been going out on the town together a lot in recent weeks. Obviously impressed by DiCaprio's post-midnight stamina, Penn now sees Leonardo as a natural for the Behan role. Box-office considerations have nothing to do with it, of course.

An all-American lack of apology



PAUL SPIKE

Successful Americans have the constitutional right to refuse to feel embarrassed about anything

I understand Bill. I can "share his pain", at least for a few nanoseconds. When I first moved to London, people used to exclaim, "You're so aggressive!" I would blush at such battery. Where Bill and I grew up, being aggressive is a high compliment. In American sports, politics, business, even the literary world: when the going gets tough, the tough really get going. Bill is nothing if not tough.

Our American culture was founded on the frontier myth, on Davy Crockett carving survival out of a Walt Disney wilderness. It's just not an "I'm sorry" culture. Successful Americans have the constitutional right to refuse to feel embarrassed about anything.

Embarrassment, however, is Britain's most common emotion. Soon after I arrived, another expatriate offered some invaluable advice. "If you want someone to like you in this country, tell them an anecdote about yourself that ends with the words, 'I was so embarrassed.' They'll immediately warm to you. Even if you weren't even slightly embarrassed at the time, just say it!"

I tested his advice and it worked like a charm. Now, of course, after more than two decades in Britain, I no longer have to fake it. I feel genuinely embarrassed from dawn to dusk.

Bill Clinton's glaring lack of embarrassment has been, I suspect, somewhat unimpressive for most British observers. But in this, Clinton is an outstanding example of his culture - he's a living embodiment

of American self-made political legends like Lincoln, Truman and Reagan. As Clinton grew up in a redneck Arkansas backwater, it made his rise to become "the most powerful man in the world" all the more American and legendary. It would be a miracle if he didn't believe his own myth.

Thus when Clinton finally managed to say "I'm sorry" in Dublin on Friday, the words staggered out of his mouth as if clamped to a twisted frame of rhetorical struts. "There is nothing that he [Senator Lieberman] or anyone else could say in a personally critical way that I don't imagine I would disagree with, since I have already said it myself to myself." Only then: "And I'm very sorry about it."

In Clinton's place, of course, most British men would be donning sunglasses and sinking off to Patagonia. Even a British politician like Jonathan Aitken felt it necessary to disappear from sight after his lies were exposed in court.

Until now Clinton's personal disgrace has not been a tragedy, but a travesty, the stuff of a thousand chat show sex jokes. But after Wall Street plummeted 500 points, American

chat show host David Letterman quipped, "Did you see what happened to the stock market today? It went down faster than a White House intern."

That joke - linking Clinton's sexual disgrace and America's economic bad news - must have made the White House spin doctors grate in panic. If Wall Street collapses, if American investors see their own profits melting away, Bill Clinton could be back in Arkansas for Christmas, unembarrassed, weeping and hugging his way right back into America's favour. Just like his predecessor Richard Nixon.

However Clinton's impeachment would be a huge embarrassment for Tony Blair. He would have to apologise to the British people for putting Britain's national reputation at Clinton's service, particularly after the missile attacks on Afghanistan and Sudan. Even more embarrassing, Blair would have to apologise to the Americans who follow Clinton into power. And, if the Republicans reclaim the White House in the 2000 election, I suspect Blair's "I'm sorry" will be answered with a very cold "Excuse me".

Sorry, Mr Hague, but voters are warming to the euro



JOHN CURTICE

By the next election, he could find Euroscepticism a much diminished pool in which to fish for votes

THE wake of the ERM crisis and once again after British beef was banned by the European Commission in the wake of the BSE crisis. Much of the trend towards Euroscepticism between 1992 and 1997 was simply the result of bad news about Europe.

Now that we have a government that is rather keener on conveying a positive image about Europe, there are already signs that public opinion is changing. According to Mori, 50 per cent might be opposed to a single currency now, but the same poll found as many as 64 per cent opposed two years ago. And an ICM poll found an eight-point rise in support for joining the euro immediately after the announcement last spring that the rest of Europe was going ahead.

The public thus appears open to persuasion on the euro. There is, after all, etched into the public mood a certain fatalism about the single currency, with as many as 70 per cent believing that the euro is fairly likely to be in use by, at least, 2010. If by the time of the next election, large sections of British

industry, the trade unions and, above all, the Government have come out in favour of Britain joining, Mr Hague could find Euroscepticism a much diminished pool in which to fish for votes.

Indeed, despite the depth of Euroscepticism within the Conservative Party in recent years, opposition to a single currency is noticeably lower among the Tories' traditional constituency - the middle class - than it is in Labour's working-class base. Opposing the euro might be a sensible marketing strategy for *The Sun*, but this does not necessarily mean it is also a good tactic for the Conservative Party.

But even if large sections of the public are still opposed to a single currency by the time of the next election, Hague's strategy will only work if the euro is a big enough issue for voters that it determines which way they vote. However, foreign affairs typically come well down the list of most voters' priorities. And in an important analysis of the *British Social Attitudes* survey, Geoffrey Evans, of the Centre for Research into Elections and Social Trends, has shown that the party preferences of floating voters have little relationship with their attitudes to Europe.

However, it is whether the referendum will enable Hague to achieve his second objective - that is to change voters' perceptions of himself and his party - that is most open to doubt. Not that he is likely to lose the referendum. Surveys of party members undertaken at Sheffield University have confirmed what every party conference observer suspected - a deep vein of Euroscepticism among the party membership, with almost a two-to-one majority opposed to Britain joining the single currency in particular.

But numbered among the oppo-



William Hague is staking his ambitions on a euro referendum

nents of Hague's policy are some of the "big beasts" of the Conservative jungle, including Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine. When Blair called the Clause IV referendum, he did so with the backing of all his party's key players, including his deputy leader, John Prescott. Opposition only came from well outside the leadership circle. Blair's ballot was a chance to reveal a new unity of purpose in Labour's ranks. Hague's poll could simply reveal old divisions once more.

Moreover, Hague's aims could well be undermined by the apparent decision of at least some Europhiles in his party not to campaign in the referendum. The opponents of Clause IV campaigned and lost. If leading Tory supporters of a single currency, such as Clarke and Heseltine, do not campaign, then they will not be seen to have lost. Instead they may leave the Tory leader with the headache of convincing party members that it is

worthwhile casting their votes in an unexciting contest.

Indeed, perhaps the real analogy with Hague's move this week is not the Clause IV referendum, but rather John Major's even more dramatic decision to call a leadership election in the summer of 1995. Then only John Redwood dared to put his head above the parapet, and he ended up winning rather more votes than many had anticipated. Such an engineered contest left it very unclear whether John Major really was still the Tory MP's first choice. And, in practice, it certainly did nothing to end his party's divisions.

Hague may have his day of victory when the referendum result is declared. But whether it will take him closer to his goal of reaching 10 Downing Street must be in doubt.

The writer is the deputy director of the Centre for Research into Elections and Social Trends

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Room for a new mass workers' party

IN THIS room today, we've brought together a significant number of active socialists together with MEPs, trades unionists, former Labour Party members and those involved in green and direct action. We already have several thousand members of our constituent bodies, but now we're here to discuss how to bring that number closer together in campaigning for socialist change.

With Clinton bombing Sudan and Afghanistan, the Russian economy in free fall and daily examples of the Blair government embracing the free market, this launch conference of the Network of Socialist Alliances is most timely. The developing British and world economic recession will cause more and more people to question the present order and to look for an alternative. For a growing number, the Labour Party is no longer a true representative of working-class families, and its abandonment of socialism means that it is wedded to the same economic policies as those of the previous government.

The only real difference seems to be that those policies

are now carried out with a smile rather than a snarl.

But what has dogged previous attempts to build a fresh alternative to the big business policies of all the main parties has been a top-down, command organisation and exclusion rather than inclusivity. This network must learn from that. We could, in my view, have 80 per cent common ground on the key policies on the economy, the environment, the rebuilding of public services and action against discrimination, while agreeing to put into their proper context the 20 per cent of differences we have between us. Let us use that 80/20 rule to go forward to build an inclusive alliance that concentrates on the things that unite us, rather than those which divide us. Then we could offer a real alternative to the failed pro-capitalist policies of the three main parties.

There's in fact a growing disillusionment among key sections of the population about politics in general. In one opinion poll before last year's election, 23 per cent felt that there was no difference between Labour and Tory and 43 per cent felt that the election would



PODIUM

DAVE NELLIST
From a speech by the joint convenor to the conference of the Network of Socialist Alliances in Rugby

make little or no difference to their lives. I do not see those percentages diminishing. That is a huge constituency for us to aim for. And already we can see modest success.

In this year's council elections there were a number of successful candidates from among our ranks, and one calculation shows that more than 250,000 people voted either red or green in May. One of our jobs today is to begin the discussion

on common slates for next year's Euro-elections. Tony Blair has already said that those elections will be a mid-term test of his government, and we need to make sure that working people have a genuine electoral alternative to Maastricht and monetary union designed for big business's benefit.

We also need to campaign harder on domestic issues, for example, the minimum wage. The £3.60 an hour proposed by the Government is woefully inadequate for the millions in low-paid work. In fact it is 5 per cent less than the average rate paid by the Wages Council before the Tories abolished it seven years ago.

I have often been accused of proposing confiscation when suggesting that salaries above £100,000 a year should be taxed at 100 per cent. But the low-pay trap is just as Draconian. For a couple with two children living in rented accommodation, every £1 rise in wages between about £90 and £190 a week means that family pays extra tax and national insurance, and loses family credit, housing and council tax benefits, to the tune of 97p in the pound. It's

not until a minimum wage reaches the European decency threshold of £5 an hour that that family will see real benefit. The gross inequalities in wealth and income, greater now than at any time since 1886, call out for us to take up the mantle of repopularising the ideas of socialism. We should aim to collect through street stalls and public meetings a petition of 1 million signatures calling for a decent minimum wage, which we could link to the national demonstration on low pay which Union is organising.

There's a vacuum in British politics that cries out for a new mass workers' party committed to fundamental social and political change. The Network of Socialist Alliances will seek to offer support to all those involved in campaigns against social and environmental injustice, but above all we will fight for an alternative to the global, unregulated free market, and for redistributing society's wealth to people's needs. We are establishing a broad organisation that is committed to those aims and open to all.

The irresistible rise of curves



SUZANNE MOORE

Do I want to get my hands on one of these groovy-looking objects? Yes, I do

HAVING SPENT the entire weekend discussing the possible collapse of capitalism, as you do, at a special Marxism Today weekend, I was struck upon my return by sheer unadorned consumer lust. Obviously I am as concerned as the next woman about the imminent global recession but what I want, what I really, really want is one of those new iMac computers from Apple. You may have seen them on the posters. They are those curvaceous, sexy-looking machines. They have ergonomic keyboards and a spherical little mouse. God, they're gorgeous.

It's not just me. Both my daughters are hankering after the iMac. "Mum, have you seen the mouse? It's just so sweet."

"You are not having a computer that costs £1,000," I say sternly, all the time thinking that maybe I could get one myself and then off-load my old Mac on to them.

In fact, none of us needs one of these things. I use a computer as little more than a typewriter. My flirtations with the Internet and e-mail have proved immensely unrewarding. Do I want to talk to someone in Oregon about whether ketchup is better than mustard? No, not really. Do I want to read on screen badly written rubbish that I would never consider reading on a page? Do I want to engage in the kind of stunted conversation that e-mailing involves? No way.

But do I want to get my hands on one of these groovy-looking objects? Yes, I do.

It's always peculiar to feel yourself being manipulated and yet at the same time responding. Just as I can find myself crying during a bad movie or even, these days, a mini-series, it is possible to feel yourself being exploited and loving it. Theoretically I may be able to distinguish between want and need, but emotionally - forget it. Poor little manipulated me, a puppet on a string. Where is my guiding star? Where is my scepticism?

The iMac, after all, is not so brand-new when looked at in the design context of the last few years. We should not be amazed that we finally have a computer that is not a beige box, but, instead ask what took us so long. Isn't this just a sign



These ultra-desirables (clockwise from above), the iMac, the Ford Ka and the Smeg fridge, are designed to appeal to our lust for rounded, 'feminine' consumer durables

of how conservative, how limited, how uninspired the driving forces behind the information revolution have been?

OK, so perhaps they were so busy conquering the world with interactive software that they paid scant attention to the look of the actual things that were to colonise our homes. Years ago I remember some nerd telling me that computers had to be beige because of something to do with the way that the light reflected. As all television sets at the time were black, I never understood this argument.

It has been clear for some time, though, that the "wired community" and its hologram of a representative, Bill Gates, have very little aesthetic sense whatsoever. Gates, don't forget, is the man who thinks that looking at a beautiful painting on a computer screen is the same as seeing it in the flesh.

Yet, of course, we do want flesh, or things that remind us of flesh - organic, natural, roundy shapes. This simple idea has made Philippe Starck's career, and a few others' too. For some time now designers have been using these more tactile shapes and materials, but it is only now that they are hitting the mainstream. Jelly kettles, and Smeg

fridges and Ford's Ka, all employ these new lines. Square now is really too square, and even everyday consumer durables such as washing machines are designed with more fluid lines.

The iMac - note that lower case "i", which implies wacky user-friendliness - was designed by a Brit, Jonathan Ive, who was once a partner in the design company Tangerine. He worked in conjunction with a firm that had previously paid enormous attention to the colours involved in producing translucent sweets.

The iMac, then, is designed to stimulate all kinds of taste-buds, but above all to illicit a more human response to a machine than usual. This is not just a touchy-feely object but a touchy-fundly Tamagotchi for grown ups. You won't, apparently, feel embarrassed about having one in your living-room. The thing is, though, if your living-room looks like the average living-room then this candy-coloured computer will look very strange indeed. Most people have invested heavily in television sets and video-recorders and music systems which are not see-through turquoise plastic but are in fact black, matt and as box-like as it is possible to be.

Never mind "Chuck out your chintz"; really you should be chucking out your black, hard-edged objects, which are as Eighties as padded shoulders. Now we want furry fridges and orange fluorescent television sets on purple stands. Believe me, I have seen the future at student design shows, at colleges such as Central St Martin's.

The Italians have been doing this sort of stuff for a decade, trying to "humanise" design because so many of us couldn't really cope with pure, hard-edged modernism. If you want an image of the way it's all going, I would say think Teltubbies; think childish, soft, huggable shapes. Think fun not function. Think nature, but nature as seen in a Technicolor theme park.

All of this is yet another example of what some would like to call the increasing "feminisation" of society. While the Eighties was all angular shapes and power dressing, the Nineties, belatedly defining itself as a decade as it comes to an end, is more fluid and organic and colourful. Is this feminine, I ask myself? Or is it just another form of repackaging?

The lust for softer, curvier forms may be described as feminised, but realists among us may note that

it has nothing to do with the shapes of those other objects of desire - women's bodies. In design terms the idealised female form is elongated, minimal and straight up and down. Gwyneth Paltrow and Courtney Cox are the role models, not Kate Winslet or Alicia Silverstone, who are considered to be too curvy for their own good.

This is just another example of the word "feminisation" being used about something that has little to do with women themselves. Design has not become more feminine; it has simply wised up to the fact that if we are to live with certain products we would like them to be easier on the eye.

We can use words like "ergonomic" and "organic" and even, if we so desire, believe that curvy computers will enable us to do something fundamentally different to square old PCs - but they probably won't. Every time I buy my elder daughter another expensive item of clothing that has something to do with surfing, I have an argument with her about the fact that she never goes surfing, or has any intention of ever doing so. No, it's important that she has a watch that she can wear "in a tunnel", because it just looks good.

Advanced capitalism depends on built-in obsolescence. Why don't washing machines, for instance, ever work for longer than six years? Why do we all put up with the shoddiness of so many hi-tech goods that fail and can never be repaired? Why? Because design is a more effective form of built-in obsolescence than anything else.

By the time the thing stops working we don't bloody want it any more anyway. It just looks so wrong, so old-fashioned. The machine I'm writing this on is the ugliest thing I've ever seen. It is completely without style. Only a few years ago I was delighted with my brand-new Macintosh; it did stuff I had no idea a computer could do. Since then I have realised I don't want to do most of that stuff, but I would like the machine itself to be prettier.

At a time when we may be in the throes of a global recession I think we can truly define "inappropriate behaviour" as greed for things that we don't need but simply want. I spent the weekend both excited and worried that capitalism was in total crisis because of its own internal contradictions. It has only taken one advertising campaign to make me realise that capitalism is not going to collapse. Not in my house anyway.

RIGHT OF REPLY

THOMAS CAREY

A Roman Catholic RE teacher reacts to our story on Audrey Santo, reputed to work miracles

JOSEPH GALLIVAN'S touching article about "Little Audrey" (29 August) was interesting and well balanced. It nevertheless managed to trot out some clichés about Roman Catholics, not least by implying that we regularly indulge in an obsessive search for miracles. Neither Roman Catholics nor members of other religious groups have any monopoly of the puzzlingly astonishing.

The cult of the unexplained is presently enjoying an active media existence. Just ask Michael Aspel, Paul McKenna or Carol Vorderman.

Miracles point to God at work. There is always the danger of fraudulent misrepresentation of divine activity. No religion has any business promoting specious methods of increasing the faith of its adherents, including doing so through the promotion of suspect miracles. Religion, which is ultimately about enabling people to experience the divine, is much too important for such dubious practices.

However, if we assume that it is God who acts directly to create miraculous situations, how could we ever prove satisfactorily that it was, in fact, God who was at work? What objective test or evidence could we appeal to?

A major difficulty is, of course, that there is no agreed definition as to what constitutes a miracle. We generally assume that a miracle must be spectacular or dramatic in form. The fact is that miracles are neither provable nor refutable from the outside. Like beauty, they are in the eye of the beholder. They are something that may be recognised only with the eye of faith.

Coming from the Latin *miraculum*, meaning something wonderful, the word denotes an extraordinary happening, but not everything that is remarkable serves to augment or develop faith. Few of life's many strange events may compete for recognition as miracles. I do not feel the need for the dramatic or the spectacular to support my faith. Existence itself is sufficiently wonderful to allow me to stand in awe of the Creator.

High life with Edward the Caresser

MOST CROWNED heads are stuffed with nonsense. Sometimes nature is to blame: royal inbreeding, the ultimate form of snobbery, is not conducive to intellectual sophistication. Often nature is at fault: a palace upbringing seldom equips its recipients to think about any question graver than (to quote Thackeray) "the button for a waistcoat or the sauce for a partridge".

Yet such is the mystique of monarchs that they are not only flattered



in life but receive undue deference after death. This usually takes the form of exaggerating their qualities and mitigating their vices, in the manner of

WEDNESDAY BOOK

POWER AND PLACE: THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF KING EDWARD VII

BY SIMON HEFFER, WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON, £25

Gold Nibs in Waiting such as Harold Nicolson and Roger Fulford. But some writers, not content to inflate majesty, imbue their royal subjects with spurious might.

Andrew Sinclair, for example, produced a sadly misguided book depicting Queen Victoria as the head of a European spy-ring in which her children acted as royal agents. Now, in the same vein, Simon Heffer presents us with Edward VII as sovereign diplomat - a King who "for long periods acted as his own foreign secretary".

Far from being a mere dabbler in politics, as historians have assumed, Edward was, in Heffer's view, the last British monarch to enjoy the "wholesale exercise of true political power". Admittedly, he was not a "gifted intellectual" and his "high-profile role" was played "mostly out of the public eye". But it involved exercising "de facto control over the reform of the army" and taking the "initiative in international alliances".

Ministers often claimed credit for policies that the king, "in his roving diplomatic role, had instigated, shaped and executed". The most important of these was "the abandonment of the Salisbury ideal of 'splendid isolation', and its replacement by a system of alliances with foreign powers, notably the *entente cordiale* with France in 1904".

Heffer is no fool. He has read well, if not widely. He was given access to the Royal Archives and makes good use of his research. He writes grammatically, though not epigrammatically.

In what reads like a potboiler, he sustains his argument manfully. Yet the evidence against it is so overwhelming that one has to conclude that this is an exceptionally foolish book.

Edward lacked even the limited capacity required to be a politician. As a child he was described as not "normally intelligent" and though he learnt a lot about clothes, food, protocol and genealogy, he proved impervious to any real education. He could never concentrate, grasp details or cope with paperwork.

He was shatteringly indiscreet, quite capable of handing a confidential Foreign Office briefing to the Kaiser and passing private notes from his ministers round the dinner table. They retaliated by keeping him in the dark as much as possible.

They also complained about having to listen to "royal twaddle". Gladstone's view was shared by Salisbury, Balfour and Asquith. Edward had a "total want of political judgement, either inherited or acquired".

Edward was primarily interested in amusement, not politics. A "corpulent voluptuary" (Kipling's phrase), he loved wine, women and song, gambling, sailing and racing. As one of his private secretaries complained, they had to "catch snap answers from him as he goes out shooting etc. Then he runs off to Trouville where of course business is impossible."

Nothing was allowed to interrupt the fixed social round, not even the resignation of a Prime Minister. Campbell-Bannerman's successor had to travel to Biarritz to kiss hands. A June

general election, Edward considered, was "a most untoward event in the middle of the London season". As Margot Asquith observed, the King "devotes what time he does not spend upon sport and pleasure ungrudgingly to duty".

It is ludicrous to dignify Edward's whoring, gourmandising trips abroad as diplomatic missions. Certainly, he did much in the way of smiling and waving to improve relations with France. But his efforts, which were not more important than those of *The Times*, have been magnified by toadies then and later.

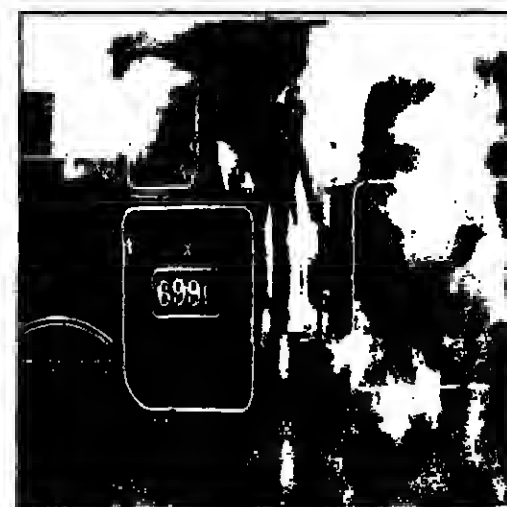
The *entente cordiale* did not stem from royal mediation. It was the product of hard political and economic calculation in Westminster and Whitehall about Britain's exposed position, notably *vis-à-vis* Germany, after the Boer War.

As E C K Ensor said in a proleptic demolition of the case advanced by Heffer (to which he does not refer), the king's constant absences abroad weakened monarchical influence at home. Here Edward did have a certain political nuisance value, especially since he fussed obsessively about promotions and decorations. But his interference - the attempt, for example, to stop soldiers exchanging red-coats for "hidesous khaki" - was almost invariably futile.

By ability and inclination, Edward VII was a largely ornamental monarch. This was fortunate since most of the ideas that did find lodgement in what his mother called "that painfully small head" were reactionary to the point of absurdity. However tempting it may be to glamourise this dim royal rout as Edward the Peacemaker, the fact is that he did far more to earn the other nickname by which contemporaries knew him - Edward the Caresser.

PIERS BRENDON

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WEDNESDAY POEM

GHAZAL

ADAPTED FROM MAKHDOOM MOHIUDDIN BY AGHA SHAHID ALI

Rumors of spring - they last from dawn to dusk -
All eyes decipher branches for blossoms.

Your legend now equals our thirst, Beloved -
Your word had spread across broken nations.

Wherever each night I'm lost to myself,
They hear from me of her - of Her alone.

Hope extinguished, now nothing else remains -
Only nights of anguish, these ochre dawns.

The garden's eyes well up, the flower's heart beats
When we speak, just speak of O! Forever

So it has, and forever it should last -
This rumor the Beloved shares our pain.

This poem comes from the Kashmiri-American poet Agha Shahid Ali's new collection, *The Country Without a Post Office* (W W Norton, £8.50)

Race relations: Pessimism among black Britons is growing in the shadow of the Stephen Lawrence murder inquiry

Blacks 'expect racism to get worse'

GEORGE MCPHERSON is no stranger to racial abuse. After arriving in Britain 50 years ago in the first wave of Jamaican immigrants, he was fully exposed to the prejudice of the more ignorant sections of the native population.

But he does not regret his decision to board the SS *Windrush* and make his life in the "mother country". Settled in Birmingham and married for 47 years to an English wife, he believes his proud Jamaican identity helped to protect him

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

from the bigots. "We knew where we came from. Whatever happened to us, whatever was said to us, we could think back in our hearts to our homes and our families. We knew who we were and we were proud of that knowledge," he said. "We were prepared to shrug off prejudice. We took a lot of hassle. Today's kids won't take that."

The level of discontent among second and third

generation Afro-Caribbeans was underlined yesterday by a new study, which found that 79 per cent of young blacks felt race relations in Britain would get worse in the next five years.

That is in stark contrast with the white community, which appears to be overcoming the concerns of a generation ago and accepting the idea of a multi-racial society.

Researchers from the University of Warwick found 41 per cent of whites thought race relations would improve over

HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

Race relations in the next five years (Age group 18-24)

Ethnic Group	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
White	16	38	39	7
Black	7	75	14	4
Asian	9	50	36	5
Other	5	57	33	9

the next five years, and only 12 per cent thought they would deteriorate. The gap of opinion

between black and white comes against the background of an inquiry into the death of Stephen Lawrence, the black teenager who was stabbed in a racial attack in 1993.

The inquiry has shone a spotlight on racial attitudes within the police service and exposed evidence of discrimination. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has said he was shocked to find that black people are up to eight times more likely to be stopped and searched by police than whites.

A report by Statewatch, a police research group, found that blacks were stopped at a rate of 155 per 1,000 compared with 34 for whites and 47 for Asians. In Merseyside, the number of black people stopped was 189 per 1,000. The greatest racial difference was in Surrey, where blacks were eight times more likely to be targeted. Mr Straw said the findings were "a matter of concern".

Despite a series of initiatives by the Home Office to combat racial crime, there has been no

impact on the number of race attacks during the past decade.

In the past three years there have been 866 serious racial assaults, 482 arsons, five attempted murders and nine murders. At the same time, job opportunities for black workers - which improved between 1984 and 1990 - worsened again.

Yet Chris Myant of the Commission for Racial Equality said there was increasing harmony among younger people. He said: "Younger people are at home with a multi-racial society.

Their music, sport and cultural life is all multi-racial."

The Trinidad-born broadcaster Darcus Howe said: "We feel much more at ease in this country. My younger children, now 12 and 13, are much more self-assured than their bigger brothers and sisters were at that age."

But Mr Howe said the future of race relations depended much on economic factors. He criticised findings based on the questioning of individuals as "vulgar speculation".

'It's a case of us and them'

CHERYL JONES, 19, is studying law at Downing College, Cambridge. She is optimistic about her own professional prospects, but said there was a noticeable difference in the way black and Asian people were perceived in the two areas in which she moved - and a noticeable difference in the prospects for improvements in race relations.

"I think my perception is that there is a difference between the ordinary person in the street and in academic and business circles," she said yesterday.

"Where I am at Cambridge in the academic and business circles, I definitely think it is getting better, racism is definitely going down. But for the ordinary person in the street the situation is not changing."

"I come from a reasonably poor area of Birmingham and the situation is still pretty much the same among white counterparts in the area that I live in. They are still quite racist."

Miss Jones believes the difference is down to class and education. "I would say it's an educational thing. But I think the boundaries are drawn much clearer in working-class districts. It tends to be very much an 'us-and-them' situation," she said.

"Whereas, when you get to the middle and upper classes



Cheryl Jones sees less racism at college than where she grew up. Kalpesh Lathigra

the opinions formed tend to be based more on what your academic ability is, what your business ability is, and race starts to matter a lot less."

While her white colleagues and lecturers were more articulate in describing and com-

ing to terms with the problem of racism, she said she felt it was only surface treatment, a veneer that needed to go deeper before the underlying problems were addressed.

Despite the apparent softening in establishment racist at-

titudes Miss Jones was concerned by the lack of representation of black, Asian and Chinese faces in the upper echelons of her chosen profession.

"It is noticeable that you don't see many, isn't it?" she said.

'Colour can be a help to me'

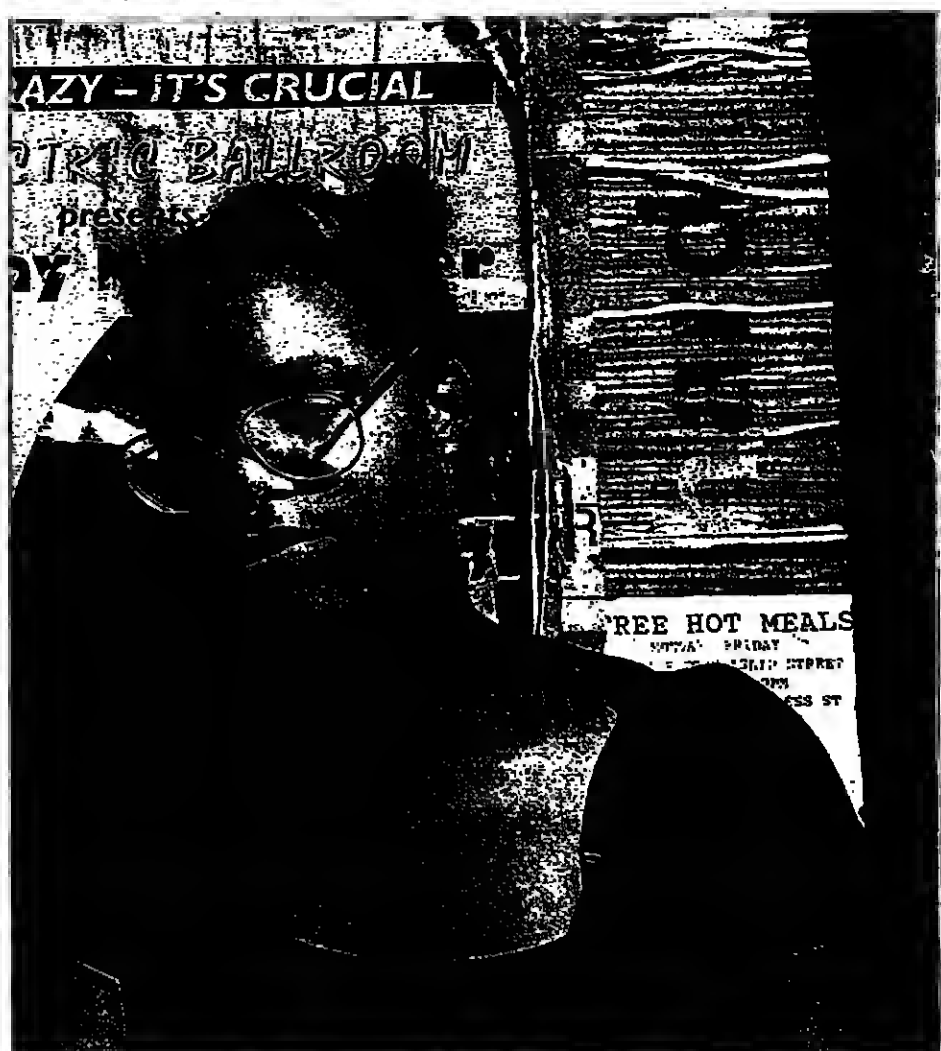
ESTHER LISK-CAREW, reading law with French at Liverpool University, says she is unconvinced by rhetoric that tells her black and white candidates have equal chances, despite her own bright future.

"In legal circles I have found conflicting messages," Ms Lisk-Carew, from Birmingham, said. "I found a lot of stereotyping when I went to do my work experience. I heard a lot of stories about black and Asian lawyers and how it is a lot harder for them to get work."

She acknowledged that there were attempts to overcome any potential discrimination. "I have been encouraged to join schemes set up to help Asian and African lawyers to get ahead and get advanced in areas like business," Ms Lisk-Carew, 19, said. Groups such as the Society of Asian Lawyers, a networking club, worked hard to place and promote Asians in the legal profession.

"I did take some encouragement from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, where I would like to work. They saw it as a positive aspect that I was a woman and that I was black."

Ms Lisk-Carew, whose family is from Sierra Leone, said: "I feel that as a young black person it is a lot more difficult to get away from the



Esther Lisk-Carew says many people face discrimination daily. Kalpesh Lathigra

barriers, primarily because you tend to be in 'a black community' where these barriers do raise their head more readily. People tend to stereotype groups and so membership of that group raises its own particular problems. As a group,

young black people are not necessarily being helped at all. In the Stephen Lawrence inquiry it became evident that he was seen typically as a young black man who could possibly be threatening, which is not the point because he was the one

who was the victim of crime. "Mostly the racism that occurs is something that I can ignore but there are a lot of people I know who suffer it on a daily basis."

CASE STUDIES
BY GARY FINN

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MP in sleaze case tells of 'knives in my back'

THE LABOUR Party tribunal investigating allegations of detrimental conduct by the suspended MP Tommy Graham began yesterday in an atmosphere of bitter recrimination.

Mr Graham, MP for West Renfrewshire, said there had been a systematic "conspiracy" against him, and added that if the National Constitutional Committee hearing expels him from the party he will continue to sit as an MP, working for his constituents and aiming to clear his name.

Mr Graham arrived for yesterday's hearing, at Keir Hardie House in Glasgow, proclaiming his innocence. "I've been waiting long enough for this," he said. "I am desperate to get in there and get the ball rolling."

"I'm now going to have my say for the first time in 12 months. I'm confident I'll get acquitted."

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

The MP said the past year had been the most "horrible" of his life, and claimed his critics were motivated by personal ambition, spite, animosity, and his "old Labour" image.

"I might not be the image they would like...," he said. "My back is full of knives. However, they will not remain there that long."

Mr Graham was suspended from Labour's parliamentary ranks last year after the suicide of the Paisley South MP Gordon McMaster, whose death brought out into the open years of acrimony and faction-fighting within Labour's ranks in Renfrewshire.

Although Mr Graham was cleared of allegations that he had smeared Mr McMaster, he went on to face accusations

of acting in a way prejudicial to Labour's interests, and the affair became the focus of damaging allegations of Labour "sleaze" in its urban Scottish heartland.

Yesterday's disciplinary hearing was held behind closed doors, with party officials refusing to give details of the five charges against Mr Graham.

They are believed to include an allegation about offering sexually compromising photographs of a trade union official in return for information, "bad mouthing" fellow MPs - including Irene Adams, the member for Paisley North - and a catch-all charge of acting in a way prejudicial to the party.

Party sources claimed last week that the case against Mr Graham was cast-iron and that he would become the first MP to be expelled by the Labour Party since the militants Dave

Forestry turns over a new leaf

THE FORESTRY Commission is to make a radical break with its past by cutting down 200,000 immature trees to create a nature reserve.

The commission will clear 300 acres of Corsican pines from Whitharrow, a fell in the Lake District, and return it to its former glory as a limestone grassland rich in rare flowers and butterflies.

It is a departure for a body that a decade ago was regularly accused of ruining the landscape by planting massed rows of dark conifers across Britain. But its remit has been broadened in recent years and now includes a duty to conservation and to the landscape as well as timber production.

Limestone grassland, which supports many rare plants and insects, is an internationally im-

portant habitat and Whitharrow is one of the best examples in Britain. It is home to uncommon flowers such as the limestone bedstraw and Britain's fastest-declining butterfly, the small pearl-bordered fritillary.

The felling will also remove the inappropriate "Mohican haircut" the trees appear to give the fell, which lies near Kendal and is visible from the main road into the Lake District from the south.

The pines are not ready for proper timber harvest and the commission, which planted them 30 years ago, will only cover its costs in felling them. Whitharrow is to be declared a National Nature Reserve at the end of this week.

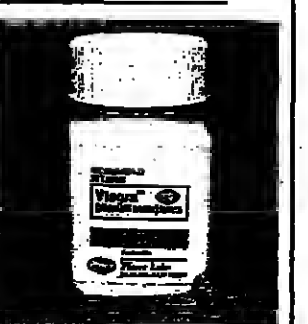
VIAGRA CORNER

DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONTIERS OF MEDICINE

ADVERTISING watchdogs have launched a clampdown on companies advertising Viagra or products given a similar name, days before the drug is expected to be licensed in Britain.

A spokesman for the Advertising Standards Authority said: "Viagra has become the most written and talked about medicine for a long time. One inevitable result of this coverage is an advertising bandwagon, with companies clamouring to advertise Viagra or imitations of it."

One advertisement that is under investigation details the alleged virtues of a drug called Vigorex under the headline "Finally available in the UK. The potency pill that swept America".



That advertisement is the subject of an investigation, the spokesman said.

He added: "What we are doing is warning advertisers that if they try to pass off something as Viagra or try to sell it direct despite it not being licensed there will be problems."

Charlie Feathers

MUCH HAS been made of the professional jealousy Salieri felt for his contemporary Mozart. A 20th-century equivalent is the way Charlie Feathers regarded Elvis Presley.

To hear him talk, you might think that Feathers created the rockabilly sound of the early Sun Records, gave Buddy Holly his hiccup, encouraged Carl Perkins to sing "Blue Suede Shoes", taught Jerry Lee Lewis how to play piano, and a whole lot more besides. Charlie Feathers was a legend in his own mind and if a reporter challenged his memories, he would say, "You do want this interview, don't you, boy?" Researchers have poured scorn on Feathers' claims but he was in Memphis at the crucial time, even if no one took much notice of him.

Feathers was born of Irish and Cherokee descent in 1932 into the rural community of Myrtle, just outside Holly Springs, Mississippi. He was influenced by the black babysitter who tended him as a child, and he learnt to play the guitar from a black sharecropper. After leaving school at the age of 10, in future years he could write little more than his name.

The family moved to Memphis and when Feathers was laying pipelines in 1949, his pipedreams took control and he determined to become a professional musician. He played in honky-tonk bars, but he also suffered for many months from spinal meningitis, which only strengthened his resolve.

Feathers befriended Sam Phillips, the owner of Sun Records, and would have you believe that he took artist control of the label, "I brought Elvis to Sun Records in 1953, man. Not only did I get him there, but I got him doing rockabilly. Bill Monroe had done 'Blue Moon of Kentucky' but I showed Elvis how to do it his way, so I arranged that record. I didn't play on it but I was at the controls." Feathers also claims to have played on Carl Perkins' "Blue Suede Shoes", but in truth, his sessions consisted of playing spoons for the Miller Sisters.

It was the steel guitarist Stan Kesler who wrote "I Forgot To Remember To Forget", yet Feathers, having recorded Elvis's demonstration record of it, also received a composing credit; he later claimed to have written the song around Kesler's title. "I Forgot To Remember To Forget" topped the US country charts for five weeks - 43 weeks, according to Feathers - and Elvis moved to RCA and international stardom.

"The Elvis I knew died in 1955," said Charlie glumly. "They didn't know how to record Elvis and I did. The hand he had when he died was a dime a dozen band, and the Memphis Mafia wasn't his friends, they were just his bodyguards."

Elvis Presley's early success prompted Sam Phillips to start a country-music subsidiary, a non-union label, Flip. In early 1956, Feathers' first single was an intense country ballad, "I've Been Deceived", coupled with the bluegrass "Peepin' Eyes", but he wanted to sing up-tempo rockabilly music. "Rockabilly is hard to control because there's a lot of jumping up and down and a lot of highs and lows," Feathers told me in 1991, adding, "Buddy Holly would listen to me and he wanted to get on Sun, man. Then he went to Clovis, New Mexico and did 'Peggy Sue'. A lot of people say we sound alike, but he heard me do the hiccup, so who copied who?"



Charlie Feathers and His Musical Warriors (Feathers with guitar) in the early 1950s. Gems / Redferns

Feathers sounds like Buddy Holly on speed. He sings faster, hiccups at a furious pace and goes into ad libitum whines. His whoops and hollers are often hysterically funny, though this was never his intention. After Sun Records, he recorded some key rockabilly sides for King Records including "Bottle To The Baby", "Everybody's Lovin' My Baby" and the frenzied "One Hand Loose", which features an intense exchange between Feathers and his lead guitarist. The song eventually became a rockabilly anthem and is as much about being free-spirited as it is about dancing.

Few of Charlie Feathers' records were released in the UK and none of his songs were picked up by the British best groups of the early 1960s. He had poor management but his own reasons for lack of success would put conspiracy theorists to shame. He was ignored until the 1970s when some neo-rockabilly fans in the UK created a demand for his records. In 1968 he cut the classic rockabilly single, "Stutterin' Cindy", and in 1973 made the album, *Good Rockin' Tonight*, with his long-suffering son

Bubba on lead guitar and his daughter, Wanda, on lead vocals.

Feathers came to the UK in 1977 for a concert at the Rainbow in London with Buddy Knox, Warren Smith and Jack Scott. He was used to small Memphis bars and he was so disturbed when he saw the size of the theatre that he threatened to return home. Bizarrely, he refused to rehearse, leaving the British musicians at a loss. Nevertheless, from the moment he stepped out with his white suit and silver-grey pompadour, he was treated as a sensation by the rock 'n' roll audience.

Feathers' vocals became even more eccentric with the years, and his glorious version of Jim Reeves' hit "He'll Have To Go" bears only a passing resemblance to the original. "Oh Huh Honey" on his 1991 album *Charlie Feathers Is*, in its own way every bit as outlandish as Yoko Ono's recordings. Feathers, incidentally, was in two minds about recording that album for Elektra's Nonesuch subsidiary. With a rare joke, he told me, "When it comes to payment, they're going to say there's none such company."

By then Charlie Feathers was a sick man. He had diabetic complications and he lost a lung through cancer. He continued to perform and make records for several more years. He never took the advice of his own record, "Destroy Your Heart" (1955), and his reminiscences grew more crotchety with the years.

Ignore the skewed history: "Tongue Tied Jill" (1956) and "Wild, Wild Party" (1961) are amongst the greatest rockabilly records. In keeping with his personality, his epitaph could be a line from "Wild, Wild Party" - "It was a wild party and I know I'm lucky to be alive." As Sam Phillips recalls, "Charlie Feathers was always difficult to work with and that's why we never got the best out of him. That's too bad because he could have been a superb top country artist, the George Jones of his day."

SPENCER LEIGH

Charlie Arthur Feathers, singer, guitarist; born Holly Springs, Mississippi 12 June 1932; married (one son, one daughter); died Memphis, Tennessee 29 August 1998.

HISTORICAL NOTES

KLAUS P. FISCHER

The long tradition of anti-Jewishness

HISTORY RECORDS no other people like the Jews. Admired and scorned, feared and persecuted, despised and demonised, they have been the obsession of a long succession of people during the last 3,000 years. The Germans consummated this long harvest of hate by annihilating six million of them in the Holocaust.

How do we explain this extraordinary hatred against a single people? How did it originate, express itself, and evolve over the past 3,000 years? And why did the Germans, who gave the world some of the most brilliant scientists, musicians, philosophers, and writers, mobilise this obsessive hatred in such a calculated and brutal fashion that it left six million innocent people dead?

To be anti-Jewish, depending on time and circumstances, could mean a religious hostility based on the belief that Jews are Christ-killers undermining the fibre of Christian civilisation; it could also mean that people distrusted Jews because they represented an alien presence in different nations; it often meant being prejudiced in a nationalistic sense, seeking to exclude Jews from public office and reduce them to the status of an underprivileged minority. Finally, to be anti-Jewish could mean that people looked at Jews as a malignant and subhuman species that represented a deadly threat to any social community. These strands of Judeophobia rarely formed a constellation or syndrome, not even in Germany, where Jew-hatred had been a long-standing tradition but where Jews were also being assimilated into the fabric of German life and culture.

What made the German situation so potentially more volatile was the fact that Germans were deeply insecure as to what it meant to be German. Overcompensating, they developed an extremely restrictive form of group membership that identified a German as someone who belonged to the same ancestral blood community. Jews and other aliens not belonging to this blood community could therefore never become Germans. This sort of thinking, mostly latent before the First World War, became far more prevalent after Germany's defeat in war and the lengthy post-war crisis that would lead to the triumph of Nazism.

Once the Nazis seized power and dismantled a civilised state, they normalised their Judeophobia and tried to galvanise the



German insecurity led to the Holocaust

rest of the population into removing the Jews from German society. But it was not only Judeophobia that made the Holocaust the greatest crime in history possible, for the deed required broad bureaucratic support, technological expertise, the cover of wartime conditions, the co-operation of conquered countries and satellite nations, the passivity of the victims, and the indifference to Jewish suffering by the rest of the world.

We should not comfort ourselves that obsessive hatred, including Jewish hatred, has burned itself out, for we need only look at the news to be persuaded otherwise. Ethnic hatred is endemic throughout the world today. Nor has the sort of delusional thinking that led to the Holocaust disappeared; it is still present all around us, though often in transmuted form.

Evil is a reality in history; that is neither a part of our primitive heritage nor a social condition but rather a human moral flaw that arises out of twisted instincts and perverted desires. Yet, there is also hope. Evil may have caused an inferno that fed on Nazi gas and consumed millions, winning a battle but quite possibly losing the long-range war to goodness because it is unthinkable among civilised people that what has happened at Auschwitz can ever be allowed to repeat itself. Speaking truth and institutionalising it in our schools and public agencies may go a long way towards preventing such horrors from happening again.

Klaus P. Fischer is the author of *The History of an Obsession: German Judeophobia and the Holocaust* (Constable, £25)

A need to give stature to the candidate

THE INDEPENDENT
ARCHIVE
9 SEPTEMBER 1988

Peter Mandelson,
director of campaigns
and communications
for the Labour Party,
follows Michael
Dukakis on the US
campaign trail

I FLY from Washington to join Democratic nominee Michael Dukakis in his home state. There is a feeling his campaign has faltered. The New York Times asks acutely why Dukakis is spending time wandering around western Massachusetts looking like a man running for governor again. I quickly realise I am with Dukakis at a difficult time. But strain doesn't show and he is welcoming. In a day he makes six visits, four speeches, holds one press conference and broadcasts by satellite.

I AM witnessing the battle of the soundbites. The aim is to achieve better visuals and a sharper message than your opponent on the evening network news. The criticism of Dukakis is that, since George Bush came out fighting after the Quayle fiasco, he has been losing the media war. But Dukakis is good at the counterpunch. After delivering his favourite speech on economic patriotism and bringing prosperity home to the average American, he walks into a press conference and, in a 70-second statement, accuses Bush of full complicity in the Iran-Contra scandal. The networks are pleased. "Dukakis today showed his strength... Dukakis has signified a new campaign turn." How true this is emerges by the end of the week.

SO, WHO is the Duke? Being with him you have a strong sense of a man who is comfortable with himself, his record and his ability to achieve his chosen goals. He does not have the Kennedy charisma or the

Johnson cunning. But he is definitely more earthed than the enigmatic Carter. He is not easy to read on the values cluster so beloved of political analysts here. He will proudly appear before the American flag, but he refuses to wrap himself in it. He supports America's nuclear strength, but will not buy every new weapons system the Pentagon fancies. He is happy for schoolchildren to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, but he'll stand up for their right not to do so. Above all, he believes in government giving a lead. That's why he would make a good manager president if elected to follow the actor president.

AS DUKAKIS flies on to California I go to the campaign's Boston headquarters. The 10 floors are jam-packed with staff, telephones, word-processors and fax machines: it is not one campaign but 50. Every state, albeit some more important than others, has its own field operation, its own media market, its own fund-raising programme and

political complexion to be accommodated. Jack Corrigan pulls together the operation for Dukakis, who is determined the campaign will differ in every sense from Mondale's in 1984. Then the Democrats were underfunded, poorly organised and left standing on the runway. But many staff I spoke to still felt the campaign was lacking something; the name never far from their lips was that of John Sasso.

Sasso was Dukakis's hardball-playing campaign strategist who in 1987 had to resign after exposing opponent Senator Joe Biden's use of Neil Kinnock's election oratory in his speeches. I was meeting with the Dukakis advertising team when the news broke: Sasso was coming back. The relief was audible. At a packed press conference Sasso apologised for hurting Biden and he charmed the journalists. I was approached for a comment by reporters whom I'd met earlier and said: "Joe Biden's made it up with Neil Kinnock so there's no reason why John Sasso shouldn't make it up with the campaign."

But Sasso not only needs to bring additional skills to the visuals war: He needs to give stature to the candidate. The Dukakis slogan of "Good jobs at good wages" is fine for an ordinary politician but people want to read more than that in the next leader of the world's most powerful nation.

From 'My Week' in 'The Independent', Friday 9 September 1988

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

FORSYTH: On 6 September, at Ipswich, to Alan and Jackie (nee Ashworth), a daughter, Mary.

DEATHS

MONTGOMERY: Robert Michael, barrister-at-law, aged 57, on 6 September, after a brief illness. Much loved by his wife Anne, sons Stephen, Roger, Edward and daughters Elizabeth and Catherine. Enquiries to Quins of Hoxley, Wirral. Family flowers only, but donations to Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital Fund if desired.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, funerals, forthcoming marriages, Marriages, which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number.

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BIRTHDAYS

Mr Richard Adams, former chief executive of P & O, 77; Miss Pauline Baynes, designer and book illustrator, 76; The Right Rev Colin Bennetts, Bishop of Coventry, 58; Sir Tom Cowie, life president, Cowie Group, 76; Professor John Davis, Warden, All Souls, Oxford, 60; Mr Eric Forth MP, former government minister, 54; Sir John Gorton, Australian statesman, 87; Mr Robin Hyman, publisher, 67; Sir John Loveridge, former MP, 73; Viscount Mackintosh of Halifax, chartered accountant, 40; Sir Anthony May, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 58; The Rev Professor Norman Porteous, theological scholar, 100; Mr Cliff Robertson, actor, 73; Mr James Sabben-Clare, Headmaster of Winchester College, 57; Mr Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, president of Italy, 80; Mr Richard Sharpe, rugby player, 60; Mr Dave Stewart, rock singer and producer, 46; Dr The Hon Shirley Summerskill, former Labour MP, 67; Mr Chaim Topol, actor, 63; Miss Margaret Tyack, actress, 67; Air Commodore Robert Weighill, former secretary, Rugby Football Union, 78.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Armand Jean Duplessis de Richelieu, Cardinal and French statesman, 1585;

William Bligh, captain of the *Bounty*, 1754; Alexander Nasmyth, painter, 1758; Zechariah Buck, organist and composer, 1798; Gaetano Milanesi, scholar and writer on art, 1813; Jane Ellen Harrison, scholar and archaeologist, 1850; Houston Stewart Chamberlain, writer, 1855; Ralph Hodgson, poet, 1871; Max Reinhardt (Goldmann), theatre director, 1873; James Evershed Agate, theatre critic, 1877; Arthur Freed, popular lyricist and producer, 1894; James Hilton, novelist, 1900; Cesare Pavese, poet and novelist, 1908; Paul Goodman, novelist, playwright and poet, 1911.

Deaths: William I, King (the Conqueror), 1067; James IV, King of Scotland, killed in battle at Flodden Field 1513; Sir Humphrey Gilbert, explorer, drowned off the Azores 1583; Tobias George Smollett, physician and writer, 1771; Giambattista Piranesi, architect, painter and engraver, 1778; Shaka, King of the Zulus, assassinated 1828; Otto Jahn, philologist and archaeologist, 1869; William Theed the Younger, sculptor, 1891; Stéphane Mallarmé, poet, 1898; Henri-Marie Raymond de Toulouse-Lautrec-Monfa, painter, 1901; Roger Eliot Fry, artist, 1944; Mao Tse-tung, Chinese leader, 1976; Hugh MacDiarmid (Christopher Murray Grieve), poet and critic,

1978; Sir Georg Solti (Gyorgy Solti), conductor, 1997.

On this day: the English defeated the Scots at the Battle of Flodden Field, 1513; the *Squirrel* frigate was lost off the Azores, 1583; San Sebastian, held by the French, surrendered to the Duke of Wellington, 1813; local government in Britain was constituted under the British Municipal Corporations Act, 1835; California became the 31st of the United States, 1850; Allied troops landed at Salerno, Italy, 1943; General Douglas MacArthur took over supervision of Japan, 1945; North Korea was proclaimed a separate independent state, 1948; the first hijack of a British aircraft took place near Beirut, 1970.

Today is the Feast Day of St Bettelin, St Claran or Kieran of Clonmacnois, St Gorgonius, St Isaac or Sahak the Great, St Joseph of Volokolamsk, St Omer or Audomar and St Peter Claver.

DINNERS

University Women's Club A dinner of the University Women's Club was held yesterday evening at its headquarters, 2 Audley Square, London W1. Mr Ben Finklott was the speaker. His subject was "The Monarchy and Constitutional History".

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of York opens the Aspire National Training Centre for Disabled People at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore, Middlesex.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Andrew Spira, "Medieval Stained Glass", 2pm.
Tate Gallery: Andrew Kennedy, "Realism and Moralism: John Everett Millais and the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood", 1pm.
British Museum: Barbara Brand, "The Juki *Shahnama*: a 15th-century Islamic manuscript", 11.30am.
The Wallace Collection, London W1: Rosalind Savill, "Gold Boxes", 1pm.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr John Macgregor, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway.
Mr Peter Torry, to be Ambassador to Spain.

THE HON Vera Benedicata never knew that she would appear in a dictionary. She was described in Virginia Woolf's 1923 diary as detesting "the scrolloping honours of the great, calls her family dull and stupid". Apparently Mrs Woolf's word - a lolloping, foid ornament - she plugged it in *The New Dress*, *Orlando*

WORDS
CHRISTOPHER
HAWTREE
scrolloping, adj. or u.

"cucumbers came scrolloping across the garden to his feet" and *The Waves*. Unrecorded, however, is its appearance in an 1893

letter by Edward Fitzgerald, translator of Omar Khayyam: "I somehow detect my own scrolloping surname." This was published after Mrs Woolf's death, but oral use across the Victorian intellectual aristocracy is more than possible, and its use should be more frequent. Heaven knows, there's reason enough.

Lean times, long looks

Our skirt hems are around our ankles this autumn ... and that can only mean one thing. No, not a moral revolution, just another economic crisis. By **Belinda Morris**

Photographer: Kevin Foord Stylist: Charlie Harrington Hair and Make up: Sam Bryant at Untitled
Model: Rachel Harris at Select



Oh dear, I can feel a personal financial dilemma coming on. All the signs are looming around me. I've started gazing wistfully at car boot sales (to buy or sell); I've started to turn the light out when leaving a room and, regrettably, I've cut right back on that expensive 70 per cent cocoa chocolate. But there are other, more telling omens. Dark and disturbing, intimate things that only a fashion person might notice (at first) and they go way beyond the metaphorical tightening of a belt.

It began innocently enough - or so I thought - with the realisation that my trousers were wide enough at the ankle for me to retract my cold bare feet into, while sitting curled up on the sofa (watching reruns of *Dad's Army*, which has to be a sign in itself). Then, when I stood up, they were voluminous and slouchy enough to almost hide my feet completely. I started to get that funny cold shiver of *deja vu*. But so far, nothing too scary.

But what happened next was much more worrying. With the aforementioned fund-raising car boot sale in mind, I began a scourge of my wardrobe, casually throwing out anything that seemed remotely passé - like any skirt on the knee or above. I even started to reappraise some old, calf-length numbers that hadn't seen the light of day for years. A floor-length black velvet skirt, bought at a jumble sale three years ago, was suddenly pulsating with possibilities. Whoa, wait a minute. What's going on here?

Falling hemlines? It can only mean one thing - monetary mayhem. Will there be a Wall Street crash? Well, all I can say to the financial speculators is: look back in your fashion history books. It's all there. It's uncanny, isn't it, how the economic

affairs of the world (sometimes all of it, sometimes just parts of it) are echoed in the position of a hemline? Going back to the beginning of time, there's always been a relationship between clothes and prosperity but, specific social nuances aside, that's understandable and obvious. This is different. During this century in particular, there's been one example after another of quite deliberate collusion between the money men and fashion designers.

The deal is: when the going gets tough, women should show support by covering their ankles. Witness the Wall Street crash of 1929 saw hemlines dropping drastically. Dior's shamelessly longer-length *New Look* of 1947 coincided with worsening rationing and fuel shortages (and women went with the look, despite pleas by the Board of Trade to the British Guild of Creative Designers to keep short skirts popular and save fabric). The mid 1970s saw the general financial malaise caused by the oil crisis, which found sartorial sympathy in Biba's long, lean skirts and ridiculously wide Oxford Bags. And now look what's happening. Fashion's big cheeses (Gucci for one, so it must be true) would have us in floor-sweeping skirts and pants again - and for the foreseeable future.

There was a bit of a build-up, which should have been regarded as a warning. As currencies in South-east Asia went into freefall last year, we were introduced to knee-length pencil skirts, while the innocuous enough boot-cut pant (that revelled in a bit of ankle-revealing) was superseded by a much lengthier and voluminous trouser shape. But as the latter didn't quite make mainstream impact, the signs were probably ignored.

Well, there's no ignoring it now. The *roubels* in deep doo-doo; Wall Street's got the jitters; the British property market is

slowing and every designer worth his salt (Ralph Lauren, Marc Jacobs, Jil Sander, Paul Smith, Nicole Farhi, Ann Demeulemeester) sent models down the runways swathed in yards of shoe-hiding, floor-trailing tweeds and flannels.

The high street, certain now that it knows a real trend when positively flung in its face, duly responded by offering passably comparable looks at a fraction of the price. Nougat, Oasis, Jigsaw, French Connection, Fenn Wright & Manson, Sisley and Sportmax - they've all come up trumps on this one. The question is - are you ready for the big cover up, and if so, can you carry it off with aplomb?

Naturally enough, it helps if you're tall, young and slim (in which case, you can carry anything off). But there's more than one way to wear a long tweed skirt and keep your self-respect. Street-wise nonchalance comes with the Gucci-esque hip-slung, ankle-length skirt with combat paint-style fly front and, if you wear it with a gently flared hip-length jacket, it should add some length to the body. A simple white shirt with black leather skirt gives the look a hard edge. Or there's the grand-entrance, a really loog coat, over an even longer skirt - but not great for the vertically challenged.

This is a no-compromise sort of trend - it's even been decreed that you cannot help nature even a little by wearing your high heels (the flattest of the flat shoes are the only truly stylish option, apparently). But hey, what the heck - there's a war on and England expects and all that. I for one refuse to be intimidated by this new look. Personally, I'm going for the fluid-skirt-with-drop-dead-cozy-chunky-sweater-boho look in pure cashmere (with cashmere socks and sheepskin booties) and then I'm going to hibernate for the winter with bars of Cadbury's and *Steploe & Son*.

Clockwise from left: Grey jacket, £129, by In Wear, from selected department stores (0181-871 2155); black ankle length skirt, £159, by Episode, from 172 Regent Street, London W1 and branches nationwide (0171 589 4279); shoes as before.

Shirt, £38, by Jigsaw, 126-127 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-491 4484); brown skirt, £55, by Sisley, from selected stores nationwide (0171-647 4200); brown 'Arizona' sandals, £52.95, by Birkenstock (0800 132 194).

White shirt, £25, by Dorothy Perkins nationwide (0171-291 2332); black leather skirt, £175, from selected branches of French Connection (0171-399 7200); black Mary Jane shoes, £99, from Kurt Geiger at House of Fraser (0171-546 1888).

Long wool coat, £289, by Jigsaw, wraparound cream boiled wool skirt, £100, by Fenn Wright Manson, from selected department stores (0171-323 4821); tread-down shoes, £89.50, from Russell & Bromley (0171-629 6903).

Hello boys. You look awful

OK, GUYS. Here's the juice. Men can't dress themselves. No, not like that. The problem is, according to the Menswear Council - that men don't know how to put clothes together. Its director, Chris Scott-Gray, says men buy clothes in isolation and don't think about how they will look with the rest of their wardrobe.

"The average guy would go shopping to buy trousers and either buy a new version of a favourite pair or a pair similar to those of a friend. He will then go home and put new trousers with favourite shirt. He won't be thinking about what suits him, or what goes together, just that he likes it. This is what we are trying to change."

Scott-Gray is spending all this week, (which in case you didn't know is "Dress for Success" week) trying to help men to look better. His team are running around the country giving make-overs to male drinkers at the Stag & Lettuce chain of pubs, and even targeting radio DJs to get the "we want to take the chore out of shopping and give men the confidence to dress well" message across.

The best offering of the week is surely the *Dress for Success* booklet. A pocket-sized pamphlet full of style tips and non-

But if you'd rather dress like these two smoothies, then read on

intimidating fashion pictures, such as those shown here. Some 250,000 have been printed and distributed all over the country to men's clothing outlets. One page offers the top ten *Dressing for Success* tips: Tip one: "Be aware of fashion, but never be a slave to it." Tip seven: "Get a haircut, and think of finishing touches such as clean finger nails." Tip nine: "Think shoes - ensure they go with the rest of the outfit."

Hold on a minute. Are British men really that bad? Scott-Gray doesn't look at it that way. "Fifteen to 20 per cent of the male population are fashion literate. This campaign is not aimed at them. About 30 per cent really don't care about clothes. We want to get to them."

That's a lot of men. In fact, according to a survey conducted by the retailers involved

in this scheme (all the big players including M&S, Austin Reed, Burton, Moss Bros, Levi's, Next and more), 45-50 per cent of men would like a few basic style tips to help them while shopping. Scott-Gray himself admits to not being fashion-literate. "Don't get me wrong, I know what's going on, but it doesn't come naturally to me, and I'd say that I'm pretty average when it boils down to it."

His booklet reflects a straightforward attitude towards dressing. Indeed the basic suit with shirt and tie combinations are featured at length. As a general rule, it is suggested that checked suits should be worn with a plain shirt and tonal tie. A plain suit can either be dressed down with a relaxed button-down shirt but no tie, or a high-necked jumper. Every man is also recommended to own at least one navy blue single-breasted suit, because it's "versatile, fresh and modern".

Which is all very well, and I was convinced by *Dress for Success* until I read this: "Combat pants can look smart but only when they are fitted and not sagging at the hips." But, dear Menswear Council, being sagging or low-slung (as fashion types call it) is the whole point of them.

MELANIE RICKEY



JAVI 60 1350

You ask the questions

(Such as: Sophie Dahl, do you feel pressure not to slim now that you are renowned as a 'larger' model?)

The model Sophie Dahl, 20, is the daughter of the writer Tessa Dahl and grand-daughter of the children's writer Roald Dahl. Her looks have been heralded by fashion pundits as a "revolutionary" departure from the waif look, and much has been made of her "voluptuous" measurements - she is size 14, with a 38DD bust.

Currently on the books of the model agency Storm, Sophie has been modelling for 18 months, appearing in a string of fashion magazines including *Elle*, *Vanity Fair* and *Italian Vogue*.

Do you ever feel exploited working in the fashion industry?
Antia, Brighton
I have an occasion, when I've been asked to do things I didn't want to do. However, I think there's a degree of exploitation in most jobs.

Which model do you rate as the most classically beautiful?
Joanne Odell, Essex
Christy Turlington

What was your worst backstage moment?
Roger, Putney
I got pretty drunk backstage in Paris two years ago. I had quite a bit of difficulty manoeuvring down the catwalk in 4-in stilettos. Needless to say I was not asked to do that particular show again.

Do you ever have problems finding clothes to fit?
Sue Oliver, Camden
No.

Do you exercise? If so, what do you do and where?
Emily, Nuneaton
I work out with a trainer three times a week.

After seeing so many waifs in magazines, do you think you have made a difference to how we view the "ideal" woman?
J Sinclair, Manchester
Perhaps. I still don't know what the "ideal" woman is. Waifs will always be in demand because it's a lot easier to design for straight up and down rather than round curves. This is the reality, unfortunately.

Did you feel comfortable posing naked for Nick Knight? What did you think when you saw the photo? What did your mother think?
Julia McEwen, Cornwall
Worryingly comfortable. Nick is the ultimate professional and hugely nice. I was alarmed when I saw the picture because I couldn't believe my thighs were that big. I don't think that they are, actually. My mother was HORRIFIED.

Do you believe in marriage?
Debbie Penrose, Haris
Yes. But only for love.

Who is your ideal man?
Chris and Tony, Liverpool
Somebody who makes me roar with laughter, who thinks I'm ravishing with lank hair and spots - and who'll send me glorious flowers. NEVER red roses. Basically, no one I know, deeply regretfully.

Where do you buy your clothes?
Nadine, Oxford
Joseph, Portobello Market

Who are your favourite fashion designers?
Nadine, Oxford
Alexander McQueen, Bella Freud

How old were you when you first kissed a boy? Where was it?
Jules Oldham, Lancaster
I was 13 years old. It was in someone's driveway in Highgate. His name was Arthur and I still know him. It was thrilling but very cold, as it was December and I was wearing hot pants and a vest.

What memories do you have of your grandfather? Have you read any of his books - and if so, which ones are your favourites?
Paula, Wirral
I miss him terribly. He was extraordinary. We used to talk about books a lot. I made him laugh. My favourite book by him is *My Uncle Oswald*.

What was your waking thought?
Sheena, Tooting
I woke up wanting to kill someone who had been outrageously rude about me. Then I thought about the person I have a crush on.

Do you feel pressure to stay at your current weight and not slim, owing to being renowned as a "larger" model?
Tim Topple
There's no pressure on me to be a particular weight. But I loathe being

renowned as a "larger" model. It makes me cringe. I should be allowed to be voluptuous or scrawny of my own volition, without people going on about it. It can be rather boring.

This coming Saturday you can have a free meal at the restaurant of your choice. Which would it be?
PS My diary can be re-jigged to free the aforementioned time slot.
Patrick Smith, Newcastle upon Tyne
Nobu at the Metropolitan. I love sushi.

What is your favourite dessert?
Nadine Kay, Folkestone
Rice pudding.

What was the last film you went to see? Ditto the last pop group.
Sara Peters, Nottingham
I went on a date to see *Armageddon* in New York. The film was dreadful and the date not much better. I saw the Beanie Boys at *Brixton Academy* and they ROCKED.

How did you break into modelling? Is it something you always wanted to do?
Danni Fielding, Bristol
I wanted to be a writer. I was spotted on the street by Isabella Blow, smoking a bag and crying after having a huge fight with my mother. She said, "Let me make you into a supermodel" and I said, "All right then".

How do you feel when you see everyone backstage wandering around in G-strings?
Penny Fox, Hereford
Jealous.

Do you agree with the 18-year-old model Sarah Thomas's criticisms of her waif-like colleagues?
Pandora, Shepperton
I'd imagine that she's probably right - most criticisms of the modelling world are just.

What do you do to while away the hours between photo-shoots or fashion shows?
Lisa Stevenson, Kings Lynn
Smoke. A LOT. Read a great deal, and drink endless cups of tea.

Are you reading anything good at the moment? Who is your favourite author?
Will North, Sheffield
I have just read a book called *Lila* by Susanna Moore and she is quite brilliant.

What do you see yourself doing five years from now?
Christie Hagan, Norwich
Hopefully, happy and enormously rich: married to someone celestial, barefoot and pregnant, making pasta in a crumbling palazzo in southern Italy, surrounded by my friends.

NEXT WEEK: BOB GELDOF

Please send any questions you would like to put to Bob Geldof, pop star, TV mogul and DJ, to: You Ask The Questions, Features dept, *The Independent*, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 4DL; by fax on 0171-293 2182; or e-mail them to: your.questions@independent.co.uk by lunch time on Friday, 11 September



I survived Fred and Rose West

'If I had gone through with a rape charge back in 1972, the other girls would still be alive'

Caroline Roberts was 17 when she hitched a ride with Fred and Rose West and subsequently took a job as their nanny. Weeks after she quit the Wests picked her up again and took her back to Cromwell Street where she was subjected to horrific sexual abuse. Caroline escaped but the matter was not investigated. The Wests later killed 10 women. Caroline was one of the main witnesses at Rose West's trial in 1995. Now 42, she still lives in Gloucester.

NOT A DAY goes by when I don't think about the girls who didn't make it. Just three months after I escaped, the Wests killed their first victim - their baby-sitter, Lynda Gough. If I had gone through with a rape charge against Fred West back in 1972, Lynda and the other girls would still be alive. When they started finding the bodies I felt terrible. I just kept thinking, why didn't I say something? From the moment I hitched a lift I thought they were an odd couple. Fred was confident but Rose was dim and had an irritating, whiny voice. Fred was younger, and very pretty. Fred was what some might call ruggedly handsome and could be very charming.

In retrospect there were so many perturbing aspects to life at 25 Cromwell Road. Fred and Rose constantly quizzed me about my sex life, which I found very embarrassing. They would encourage my boyfriend to stay, suggesting we use their bed, and Fred would reassure me that if I ever "got into trouble" he could "sort me out" as he knew how to carry out abortions.

He was obsessed with women's sexual enjoyment and "improving it". Rose would sidle up to me on the sofa and fiddle with my hair.

The younger children were delightful, but I found Anne Marie, the oldest daughter, odd. She would alternate between being hyperactive and withdrawn. It did go through my mind that he had abused her.

It sounds bizarre, but being raped by Fred West was not as devastating as being abused by Rose. The rape took a few seconds, and I knew what to expect. But I found my experience with Rose totally repulsive. She gave me oral sex - which I had never participated in - and it made me feel utterly degraded. I went off women completely as a result. I became very nervous around female friends. With men I became jealous and obsessive, and I didn't have oral sex again until after the trial in 1995.

Fred's final threat before I escaped was that he would "bury me under the paving stones of Gloucester" with the "hundreds of girls" who were already there. This image tormented me for years, and I still have a recurring dream. I can hear my mother on the ground above crying, handing out pictures of me. I'm shouting to tell her I'm under the stones, but she can't hear me.

Because Fred was constantly bragging, I thought his threat had no substance. When, 23 years later, I heard on the news that a man had been held on suspicion of burying his murdered daughter under paving stones, I went cold. I knew it was him immediately. I heard later that Fred had talked of me as a "dummy run"



Caroline Roberts, the Wests' nanny
Katinka Herbert

to test Rose's killing ability. I did report the attack to the police - and the Wests were charged with indecent assault - but I didn't push a rape charge. There were a number of reasons for this. I had an affair with one of the lodgers at the houses, and another had tried to sleep with me. The Wests had told the police about this and I was terrified of people finding out. And my stepfather, with whom I had a difficult relationship at the time, didn't want me to go to court as he was worried about neighbours gossiping. After it came out, I felt terribly emotional and guilty. I thought I'd been selfish because my first thought was to protect myself, even though the Wests' behaviour had

been suspicious - I didn't want people to probe into my life. If I had really persisted, the police would at least have been watching Fred. And, on the flip side, if I hadn't said anything at all, would the women still have been alive? Because I caused a fuss Fred and Rose no longer trusted the women they abused, and so eradicated their fears by killing them. I'll never get over these feelings totally, but I have had a lot of counselling and now know that I can't hold myself responsible for the murders. My belief in an afterlife also helps me come to terms with their deaths. People are astounded at how I cope with life. It has made me feel invincible.

Understandably, I'm a protective of my children. I remember my daughter being frustrated that I wouldn't let her go camping with friends. She only realised why when the bodies were found and my involvement unravelled.

I feel that I went through this for a reason: I am now here to help people who have lost those they love. When my children have grown up, I want to train as a rape counsellor and write a book about my experiences. My friends worry that if I talk too much about what happened people will think I'm insane, but I think it's important to talk about it if it helps people who have been through similar experiences.

The girls who didn't get away are always going to haunt me. After the trial I had terrible nightmares. I used to visualise another of the Wests' victims, the student Lucy Partington, tied up, pleading with me to help her.

I have developed a relationship with Lynda Gough's parents - they wrote to me after the trial because they knew how devastated I was about Lynda's death. Their first letter was incredibly moving. They said they didn't blame me, and that as long as we went on feeling guilty we would continue to be the Wests' victims. We write regularly but don't meet in person. I think the emotion would be too overwhelming.

I often think about writing to Rose. She says she has found God, but if she really had she would confess. It isn't my place to forgive her for killing others, but I could forgive her for what she did to me. She says she can't remember it, which makes me very angry. But I think that abusing and killing women became so much part of her life that she simply couldn't tell us apart.



This article is a shorter version of one appearing in *'She'* magazine, on sale from 10 September
INTERVIEW BY AMANDA KELLY

IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

14: FAT-FREE FOODS BY ANNALISA BARBIERI

"EIGHTY-FIVE per cent fat-free" smiles Mr Motivator, every Valium-pickled housewife's dream, of McVitie's new Go-Ahead Caramel Crisp Bars. What rubbish all this XX per cent fat-free nonsense is that is now plastered on everything. Eighty-five per cent fat-free may sound great, but it is still 15 per cent fat, which is quite a lot. Yes, it may be better than gobbling a Fuse bar, but nowhere near as delicious.

I understand the point of them. You feel like a naughty snack, you buy an XX per cent fat-free bar of chocolate, you eat it and bingo. No guilt. But not that much pleasure, either. And with not much pleasure comes frustration, and before you know it, there are three wrappers marked XX per cent fat-free stuffed down the side of the sofa.

For that you could have had a Mars Bar and felt satisfied, and your fingers would have been sticky with glorious full-fat chocolate. Instead you feel like a miserable failure.

A McVitie's chocolate biscuit has 23.9g of fat per 100g of product - 87 calories per biscuit. The Go-Ahead version has only 14g of fat per 100g, but it is still 35 calories per biscuit. Yes, I know it is not just the calories that matter but my point is that for an extra 22 measly calories you can lick the melting chocolate off a far-tastier-dunked-in-tea biscuit.

Jacob's launched its Vitalinea range a few months ago. Half-way through a packet

of its Crispy Chocolate biscuits a colleague spluttered "Oh God. These still contain 16g of fat and I've just had 140 calories' worth of them" (although this did equate to 10 whole biscuits). All in the name of fat freeness, she would not even have been eating them if that wretched banner proclaiming XX per cent fat-free had not been scrolled across the wrapper. Because yes, doesn't it seem that just by eating them you are on the road to being fat-free?

Now take Entenmann's cakes. Hallelujah, I thought, when I saw its (95 per cent fat-free) Double Chocolate Muffins in Tesco. But it is a simple sum to calculate: little fat, little taste. We are all looking for a short cut: we want to eat as much as we like but miraculously lose weight. I will let you in to a secret: my new book will be about this and it is called *The Secret of Losing Weight*. The first chapter is called "Food" and it says "Eat less and you will lose weight". The second (and final) chapter is called "Moving" and it says "Move more and you will lose weight".

Of all the fat-free garbage we have been bombarded with the best was the Mars Light which, in fact, annoyingly, we were not trialling it only in Wales and the West Country. Mars withdrew it. Bring it back! We would know where we were with this: a gorgeous Mars but with half the fat of the Marianne Faithfull variety.

The sleazy side of Bacon

Francis Bacon's sado-masochistic love affair with an East End villain is the subject of John Maybury's *Love is the Devil*. Insight into a tortured mind or plain muckraking? By James Mottram

"WHAT I wanted to do with this film was make a Powell and Pressburger *Carry On*, which I think I've done," says John Maybury, the director of *Love is the Devil*.

Francis Bacon, denizen of the late 20th century art world and subject of Maybury's impressionistic rendering, doubtless would have approved. At home with culture and class at both ends of the spectrum, his work is a crossbreed of the lush and the grotesque: Bacon the man, and the artist, is once more the centre of controversy.

Subtitled "Study for a Portrait of Francis Bacon", Maybury's film is no biopic, eschewing most of the painter's 63-year existence in favour of his short-lived and tragic love affair with muse and marginal East End villain, George Dyer. "It's not a film about painting," says Maybury. "If you want to find out about Bacon there are dozens of great documentaries: you can go and watch them. It would have been really pointless to have made a *Wild*, for instance. It would have been hugely disrespectful to Bacon, and also to the modernism of his achievements, to do something like that. It needed a more abstract approach to be worthwhile."

Opening, in 1971, with Bacon's triumphant retrospective at the Grand Palais in Paris (just as Dyer is fatally cramming pills and booze down his throat in a nearby hotel), the film crawls back through the mire of the late Sixties Soho drinking elite, setting itself for the most

part in the squalid Colony Room club, presided over by the frighteningly vile Muriel Belcher.

With Derek Jacobi and Tilda Swinton on hand vividly to bring to life Bacon and Belcher, Maybury sets out to show the dark side of the man: Bacon the sado-masochist, the humiliator, dragging Daniel Craig's Dyer through the gossip and verbal barbs until, as the director puts it, "he just fell apart".



"There was something inherently disruptive in the nature of Bacon's relationships. There is a certain pre-destined inevitability in Dyer's demise. He is almost sacrificed to fertilise the art. By the end, even his sub-conscious no longer be-

longs to him," says Maybury. That, a decade before, Bacon's previous lover, Peter Lacey, died on the night of the artist's Tate gallery retrospective fittingly satisfies this inexorable wheel of Greek tragedy. A subject, of course, that influenced Bacon's work tremendously.

Preferring to visually represent the Bacon/Dyer dynamic as a shifting canvas, Maybury uses film the way Bacon uses paint. "I wanted to make the film look like Bacon's paintings. His work told us how to design the film: the claustrophobia, the airless rooms with white, lardy English flesh; the cigarette-stained, drink-sodden beings - it's all there."

Such a warts-and-all approach was bound to stir up trouble. Not what the BBC had in mind when hiring Maybury for the project. One executive even ludicrously suggested the film be given a happy ending. Early script drafts were deemed "prurient". Malcolm McDowell, Maybury's first choice for the role for over a year, dropped out without reason; the critic David Sylvester denied access to his definitive interviews with the painter.

Lord Gower, Chairman of the Arts Council and one-time friend of Bacon, objected to the use of the word "cunt" in the script, insisting on its removal before access to a £250,000 lottery grant would be given (Maybury did so, only to replace it upon shooting). Unsurprisingly, the Bacon estate also refused permission to use his paintings in the film, while Bruce Bernard, brother to Jeffery and one



A hallucinogenic nightmare committed to celluloid: Derek Jacobi, above, plays Francis Bacon. Left, director John Maybury

of Lucien Freud's models, maintained that not enough time had elapsed since Bacon's death in 1992 to assess his life properly.

"There is a great sense of ownership over Bacon," says Maybury. "People who had a vested interest in him - whether it be the estate or people who have made careers out of him - wanted to protect their investment. The irony of that is that Bacon was one of the most honest public figures I can think of - about who he was and what he got up to. They didn't want it dug up again. It suits certain people to isolate Bacon from his life, because it's a bit messy. People wanted me to show Bacon as this great intellectual figure."

As for Dyer, Maybury drew a blank from most of the people he

spoke to for a character reference: "He was like a cipher. It was like he didn't really exist. The only tangible thing I could grasp was the sort of envy people felt towards him because he was being painted by Bacon. The funny thing is, I underplayed a lot of what went on, but to pretend it did not happen at all would be dishonest."

A hallucinogenic nightmare committed to celluloid, *Love is the Devil* is as radical in its own way as any of Maybury's previous works. Friend and collaborator with the late Derek Jarman, working as a costume and set designer on *Jubilee*, and editor on *War Requiem* and *Last of England*, Maybury himself has known what it was like to be the darling of the avant-garde. The recipient of ret-

rospectives at the ICA, he produced "dirge-like" Super 8mm essays, alongside work for the Michael Clark dance company and performance artist Leigh Bowery. He supplied designer Rifat Ozbek with a kaleidoscopic tape of his models in lieu of a catwalk presentation, and produced *Remembrance of Things Past*, a treatise on AIDS and the media.

Fascinated by Bacon's work from his time as a fine arts student at North London Polytechnic, Maybury's film is a reckoning with this past existence. Skirting Bacon's world 20 years ago when first introduced to the Colony Room ("I never met him, I was too terrified"), Maybury's deliberate cameos, from Turner Prize contender Gary Hume to Stella McCartney and Anita Pal-

enberg, suggest a critique of the art world, as much as of the artist. A world, of course, to which Maybury has attached himself.

"There are people there who are all too ready to rip you to shreds. If you can hold your own in that company, you're one of them," recalls Maybury of the Colony Room. "There's an enormous warmth in that hitherto humour, which I think people have missed. It's not evil, it's inclusive. If they make an effort to be vile to you, it means 'Come on in!' Comparisons between chronicler and chronicler become too tempting: *Love is the Devil* is an invitation to an exclusive netherworld."

Love is the Devil opens next Friday

Pop goes the tenor (again)

Plácido Domingo has recorded an album of romantic boleros whose popularity in Hispanic culture could take him to the top of the charts. By Philip Sweeney

A THURSDAY lunchtime in the Eden Roc Hotel, Miami Beach. It's a turquoise and white 1960s medium-rise redolent of the old pre-vice days of South Beach - Sinatra, the Rat Pack et al. Plácido Domingo is in a roccoco conference room, wearing a white jacket and open-neck shirt. He has been flown in for the day from his holiday home in Acapulco to launch to the international press his new "pop" album, a collection of the romantic songs of the great Mexican songwriter, Agustín Lara.

The assembled media consists in equal parts of middle-aged men in suits and glamorous young women. It's probably advantageous to be one of the latter in terms of access to the few individual interview slots available. I just lost my 10 minutes to a lovely young thing from Santo Domingo, who swept in claiming friendship with Plácido.

The question and answer session is respectful and unprobing, a mixture of HELLO-level curiosity and patriotic attention-seeking. Questions open with requests for greetings to all his fans in Venezuela, or Bolivia or wherever. A statuesque young Chilean lady

asks: "Mr Domingo, firstly, what part of your personality is expressed most in the new record; secondly, is 'Mujer' (Woman) your favourite track; and thirdly, what do you think of the Chilean soprano Veronica Villalón and Cristina Gallardo?" (Answer: "Mujer" is one of his favourites, the Chileans are very promising, and pass on the personality trait.)

In spite of the generally anodyne tone, various serious points emerge. Domingo feels Latin culture is excessively lightweight - an incessant mixture of soap, comedies, interviews and dance music: one of his greatest wishes would be to re-introduce the zarzuela, the Spanish light opera genre of which his parents were exponents. He sees his Three Tenors work as an "important cultural and social action" in the sense that it pulls in punters who would not go to the opera. "They go to one of our concerts and hear a hit of romance in three minutes and think 'Wow!'" And he's not countenancing any snobbish criticism about crossover work with Pavarotti and the Spice Girls... to cover himself, it seems, for the future: "I don't want to throw the stone to anybody because maybe one



Don Plácido

day I get all of that back..."

In truth, Domingo has been down the pop road already; the new record is relatively lightweight, compared with some of his past efforts. Delving into his back catalogue you find, dating from the late 70s, a collection of ballads entitled *Be My Love*, an album of tangos, two volumes called *From My Latin Soul* and duets with Julio Iglesias and John Denver (do you see what he means about greenhouse dwellers and stones?).

With the Lara material, Domingo is mining a shrewd seam. For one thing, the

singer/songwriter/celebrity in question - a sort of Mexican Noël Coward, but macho and bohemian - possesses both vast residual fame throughout the Hispanic world and excellent prospects for a cult revival 30 years after his death. Similarly, the bolero, the Latin romantic song genre Lara specialised in, retains the status of trans-generational standard but has also lately undergone a great sales resurgence with young pop singers such as Luis Miguel.

On the evening of the launch we repair to the chic China Grill restaurant for a cocktail reception, for which the girls swap glamorous outfits for drop-dead glamorous outfits. The tall Chilean turns out to be not nearly so deferential as she'd seemed. "The arrangements are so starchy," she says. "What I really wanted to ask him was how would he feel if Julio Iglesias did an album of Verdi arias?"

Up on the roped-off VIP area, a short, jovial Argentinian named Bebu Silvetti is the man to talk with the shush issue. He is the producer of the album. "Yeah! Absolutely!" nods Silvetti enthusiastically. "That's my feeling - easy, easy ... Plácido really likes this!"

Wouldn't starker, moodier

arrangements, like Lara's own habitual piano and bass, have been more appropriate?

"No! Impossible! Plácido has a big voice, you know - it needs a big orchestra - I use 47 strings. And everybody loves it - people always saying to me, 'Oh My God! I love big orchestras! I love big singers!'"

Perhaps not everybody. But in spite of objections that Domingo's operatic style is inappropriate for such intimate material, and that Silvetti's orchestration is like a gigantic marshmallow, the groundswell of Miami opinion seems to be behind Domingo. After all, the bolero repertoire was itself part-modelled by Italian bel canto in the 19th century. If Plácido can win over the new, young bolero market in addition to the older female listeners, the target of his record company, then he's got a chance of a big hit.

As for Don Plácido, he's ruling out nothing for the future, as he told a flaxen-haired *antimatrix* from what sounded like Wembley TV of Miami. He already has underway a collection of rancheros (Mexican country songs) and he's talking to Gloria Estefan. Let's just pray that he's lost the John Denver songbook.

As Mahler would have it

THEY WERE last at the Proms in 1999 (shame), but the good news is that the Czech Philharmonic still sounds like the Czech Philharmonic. Which is something of a miracle given the turbulent times that this nation has lived through, given the irresistible pressure in this shrinking world to be bigger and better than your competitors. Size - as in body and depth of sonority - matters, or so it would seem. A question of national pride. When a delegation of brass players from an orchestra as good as individual, as this one can approach a well-known American conductor (and this is true) asking how they can sound more like the Chicago Symphony, you begin to realise just how irresistible that pressure is.

But the Czech Philharmonic has resisted. They remain ungilded, unsanitized, unpasteurised, unspooled. A little aural adjustment is required (remember this season has fielded a handful of the world's heavyweights), but that is easily made. Certainly there were times in Sir Charles Mackerras' quite splendid account of Mahler's First Symphony where our "modern" Mahler conditioning craved more: more reach in the strings, more resonance in the brass, more heft in the horns - more volume. The "Titan" of the symphony's subtitle strode proudly but not indomitably to his well-earned triumph. You began to

PROMS
CZECH PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA:
JANACEK, MAHLER
ROYAL ALBERT HALL

see, or rather hear, why Mahler requested his horns to stand at the close - not just as a visual effect, a moment of theatre, but because the horn sound would have been smaller and rounder then and would otherwise have been swallowed in the orchestral melee.

In fact, listening to this performance was a little like turning the clock back to Mahler's day: the naturalness of the expression, the earthiness of the colours, the very real sense of an orchestra striving beyond the limitations of the instruments in hand. Mackerras, a great stylist, knows about such things. Phrasings and rubatos sounded inbred, careless, casual in the best sense of the word. We were back in Bohemia, the source of Mahler's natural world, all charm and mystery. Dawn broke magically, a whisper away from silence, on this the first day of the rest of his life. In the stop-and-listen middle section of the first movement cellos etched in fragile *glissandi* whose eeriness was like every forest murmur you've ever heard and not been able to explain. And all around were the singers and their songs, the local bands tooting their quirky homespun routines. Mack-

erras made the scherzo's trio sound particularly homely, while reedy woodwinds and sour trumpets duly strutted their stuff in the bizarre and grotesque parodies of the third movement's funeral procession. A huntsman's funeral with the cast of Janacek's *The Cunning Little Vixen* as chief mourners.

Mackerras had earlier offered Vaclav Talich's two-part suite from that opera - a fitting endorsement of his Czech credentials (to say nothing of his authority as a world-renowned Janacek specialist), since Talich had been his teacher. So more animal magic, more pastures green, but in Janacek's distinctive hues and in a performance as bright-eyed and quick-witted as its bushy-tailed heroine. Again it was the friendly persuasion, the honesty of the playing that was so winning. I've heard more spectacular performances of Janacek's orchestral rhapsody *Turris Buda*, but few as naturally in touch with the feeling behind its strangely unorthodox timbres. Which unfortunately included a nasty muddy-based electronic organ. Standard orchestral pitch being higher in other parts of Europe meant that the great Albert Hall organ sat redundant as gruff Czech brass rose above the tintinnabulations to proclaim *Turris Buda*'s prophecy. No matter, an evening of tangibly real music-making.

EDWARD SECKERSON

Twenty four hands are better than two

PIANOWORKS, a series of 17 concerts rammed into four days, is a lusty celebration of the piano - and I use the present tense since it is intended that last weekend's four-day festival should turn into an annual event.

The atmosphere in the Blackheath Concert Halls was gloriously anarchic: concerts over-running their schedules, a hint of chaos in the organisation, artists mingling with the audience - and vice versa in the concluding "Piano Bash", when six pianists oh-so-miraculously materialised from the crowd to join the six already onstage in two pieces for 24 hands, one of them Czerny's

delightfully outrageous arrangement of Rossini's overture to *Semiramide* ("Demisemiramide", someone behind me quipped).

The music, much of it rewarding obscure, was presented in various forms - solo recitals, chamber concerts, a cabaret evening, a tribute to Percy Grainger (whose heterodox music watched over the entire festival), an event for kids, and even a late-night jazz special. The backbone was provided by a team of six pianists: Stephen Coombs, who devised and planned the proceedings and Marc-André Hamelin, Seta Tanyel, Artur Pizarro, Jonathan Plowright

CLASSICAL
PIANOWORKS '98
BLACKHEATH CONCERT
HALLS
LONDON

and Leslie Howard, who offered some staggering Liszt playing.

The centerpiece of the entire event was the Sunday afternoon recital given by Marc-André Hamelin, who must now be the closest - post-Horowitz - to claiming the title of "world's greatest pianist". You don't often see concert-going middle-England pressed against the recital room door, waiting to

rush in and grab the best seats. You do at Hamelin recitals, and it is hardly surprising: his technique is breathtakingly virtuosic, but he uses it to give himself space to think about the music. Hamelin can interpret where other pianists are worried about getting all the notes and his musical curiosity guarantees programmes that eschew the Mozart-Beethoven-Schumann axis of less adventurous players.

At Blackheath, Hamelin presented a fascinating mix of Alkan (including the torrential variations of *Le Festin d'Esoppe*), Medner's *Sonata reminiscenza* (he has just recorded all 14 Medner

sonatas for Hyperion), seven of Godowsky's scintillating, Fabergé reworkings of the Chopin studies (which he is likewise recording) and the world premiere of *Le Festin d'Alkan* by the Scottish composer, Ronald Stevenson, 70 this year and now one of the country's senior musical statesmen. *Le Festin d'Alkan* is an extensive demonstration of Stevenson's contention that "composition, transcription and variation are essentially the same thing".

It is a deeply compelling, even disturbing exploration of the bowels of the piano, a lesson in how to make the instrument tell. The first

movement is a dark fantasy, baleful, frightening, and as black as anything Stevenson has written. The second varies Alkan's G minor *Barcarolle* and the third is a set of free variations which sweeps up the piano literature in reference, studded with three fearfully difficult cadenzas.

Half an hour in length, it is certainly one of Stevenson's most important work to date and a major addition to the repertoire. Whether other pianists can play with Hamelin's calm aplomb and electrifying precision remains to be seen.

MARTIN ANDERSON

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The mother of all dramas

Racine, Euripides, Benjamin Britten, Stevie Smith and Sarah Kane have all fallen for Phaedra, the woman who fell in love with her stepson. Now it's the turn of Ted Hughes. By Paul Taylor

Tonight, Diana Rigg will take to the stage as Phèdre at the opening of the new Ted Hughes version of Racine's great tragedy, directed by Jonathan Kent. It's not the first time, though, that she has played this tormented heroine – the Cretan wife of Theseus who succumbs to an incestuous, fatal passion for her righteously chaste stepson, Hippolytus. Some 23 years ago, Rigg starred in *Phaedra Britannica*, the Tony Harrison adaptation which propelled the action forward from mythical Greece to the British Raj of the mid-1850s. The divinities who rent apart Racine's characters became the gods of India, or, as the bewildered Brits continually cry, nearly "India" itself.

From Euripides to Stevie Smith, Benjamin Britten and Sarah Kane, the Phaedra legend has attracted many artistic responses and reworkings. Racine's play is, after all, itself indebted to versions by Euripides and Seneca. Not that there aren't aspects of the story that prove tough to pitch to a modern audience. The obdurate militant chastity of Hippolytus, for example, is meant, in the Euripides, to be seen as the defilement of a virtue, the love of purity taken to a hubristic, blasphemous extreme. But, to current perceptions, virginity seems about as sane and unlaughable an ideal as voluntary penury. As Jonathan Kent recalls, from an earlier Almeida production of the Euripides, audiences tend to think that Hippolytus has "something seriously wrong with him".

The most radical solution to this problem was provided by Sarah Kane in her 1996 play, *Phaedra's Love* which transposed the story to a present day, dysfunctional, British-seeming royal household. Here, far from being an athletic hunter, Hippolytus was a grumpy, reclusive slob of a prince whose denial of love was expressed not in celibacy but in the indiscriminate indulgence of someone who treats sex as junk food. The ease with which Phaedra could get into his knickers – he grudgingly allowed his stepmother to give him a blow job, while idly scoffing takeaway fries and never allowing his eyes to stray from the TV set – threw cruel emphasis on the fact that, essentially, he was as remote as his Greek counterpart.

If Kane found an ironic modern equivalent for Hippolytus's impregnability, the Romanian director Silviu Purcarete, in his recent acclaimed reworking, got round the contemporary cultural difficulties by reducing the story to its primal elements in a timeless, moonlit landscape eternally policed by two opposed divinities: Artemis, the Goddess of Chastity, prophylactically bandaged in white from head to foot, stalked the stage like a high-stepping gazelle, with Aphrodite, a dumpy primitive predator whose face was hidden behind a curtain of hair. Underscored by a throbbing *perpetuum mobile* of sound on the cimbals, the piece gave a mesmeric sense of the



Above, Diana Rigg in the latest translation of Racine's classic tragedy of mother love. Right, Racine Geraint Lewis/Mary Evans Picture Library

Phaedra drama as an unending, mythic clash of absolutes. Impotent to strike a healthy balance between the conflicting forces, Lini Pintea-Honeag's amazing Callas-like Phaedra and Angel Raboboc's half-naked, snorting disdainful Hippolytus seemed to be destroyed by some impersonal, implacable and pitiless machine. In his version of *Phèdre*, Racine makes a significant adjustment. Here, the cold, pure hunter has himself developed a secret passion – for the invented character of Aricia. It's a choice certain to bring him into conflict with his father and to cause his stepmother agonies of jealousy when she discovers that he has rejected her advances not because he cannot love, nor simply because of the incest barrier, but because he loves elsewhere.

Jonathan Kent points out that, at its first performance in 1677, Racine entitled his tragedy *Phèdre et Hippolyte*, and "doesn't take Hippolytus's iconic status for granted. He makes him psychologically complex so that his brutal death, when it comes, seems the most terrible waste". I felt the force of these remarks, while watching a different production of *Phèdre* brought last week to the Edinburgh festival by the brilliant Swiss director, Luc Bondy.

From such an exalted source, this was a surprisingly disappointing and underpowered occasion. A golden-gowned figure who whirled round repeatedly with an embarrassing, child-like giddiness after she has confessed her guilty secret to her confidante, Valerie Dreville was a reasonably impressive Phèdre, her strangu-

lated animal howl of anguish and incredulity, on hearing that Hippolytus loves another, acutely harrowing. But as the object of her wild infatuation, Sylvain Jacques was just a vacant pretty-boy, clad in a preposterous see-through shirt and seemingly possessed of all the moral complexity of an ex-member of Take That. So the climactic moment of their confrontation, when Dreville's Phèdre arches right back and uncovers her breast before his sword, as if inviting him either to kill or to ravish her, was undercut. What principally preoccupied you was her shallow taste in men.

The evening was not helped by the surtitles which were full of ridiculous archaisms ("Wait not until a father's wrath force thee away amid general execra-

tion") that kept reducing the audience to stifled sniggers. In their own dull way, they bore out Jonathan Kent's point that "all translations are versions". This is particularly the case with Racine, since the consummate balance between formality and ferocity in his alexandrines is fiendishly difficult to reproduce in English verse.

Some formidable poets have responded to the challenge. Robert Lowell's 1961 version has been criticised for being too "post-Freudian", rendering sexually explicit what is merely suggested in Racine's verse. But this would seem to me the honourable course, if the alternative to that directness is a coy and clammy suggestiveness, such as was never the intended effect of the French. Here is how Lowell treats the climactic moment, referred to



earlier. Begging Hippolytus for his sword, Lowell's Phèdre cries: "Look, this monster ravens / For her execution, will not flinch. / I want your sword's spasmodic final inch" – a couplet where there's a shuddering conflation of orgasm and death in "spasmodic" and an unforgettable phallic swelling of "finch" to "final inch". Nudging and mealy mouthed, this isn't.

Lowell, writing of Racine's verse, refers to "the glory of its hard, electric rage". That electric rage is strongly transmitted by the new Ted Hughes version in unrhymed verse. Jonathan Kent describes it as "a landscape of tough adamantine language. It's Racine seen through the prism of Hughes' genius". Throughout, Hughes gives further twists to the intensity of the piece. When Phèdre talks of the nightmare impossibility of avoiding Hippolytus because he and her husband look so alike, in the original she actively monitors the resemblance. In Hughes' version she thinks of herself as the thing viewed in an oppressive, creepy surveillance exercise: "Everywhere, I saw him staring at me / Through his father's features." Similarly, Phèdre's feeling that having lost self-possession through passion she's in no position to take charge of a state, here gains a powerful sense of both psychological possession and loss of political control. The heroine describes herself as "occupied by an enemy / That hardly lets me breathe." The lines conjure up a ghastly inner stifling, different from the "shameful yoke" that leaves Racine's Phèdre gasping. There's an unflinching verbal muscularity in the Hughes that an actress like Diana Rigg will surely relish.

Two high profile productions of *Phèdre* within a week is a rare occurrence. Art is, of course, not a contest. However, if you want to think of it in those terms, the Bondy was so lacklustre that the Kent / Rigg *Phèdre* has everything to play for.

The Almeida Theatre production of *Phèdre* opens tonight at the Albany Theatre, London WC2 (0171-369 1730)

The actor: Kate Ashfield.
The part: Cate in 'Blasted'.
The year: 1995

I'D DONE a few plays after I left Rose Bruford drama school, but *Blasted* was a turning-point for me. I was about 22, and found myself in this play at the Royal Court that everyone was talking about. The tabloids were sniffing around. Harold Pinter came to see it and sent the playwright, Sarah

Kane, a letter of support. Every audition I went to after that, they said "Oh, so you were in *Blasted*".

I was playing Cate, an epileptic with a mental age of 12, who gets raped by a soldier. What was interesting was that everyone in the theatre thought the actors were having a really tragic time of it, but we were all having a laugh. It was quite surprising to us that some of the audience found it so shocking

they walked out, or even fainted. On the last night, there was even some real blood. It was early on, after the masturbation scene and before the oral sex. Pip Donaghy, who was playing Ian, my middle-aged lover, had to open a bottle of champagne.

The metal bit twisted off and out his hand. I had to have a fit in which I cried and laughed hysterically, then fainted, and he had to flick water over me. As he

DEBUT



tried to revive me, he saw blood fly everywhere.

He just turned to the audience and said: "Ladies and gentlemen, this is a very bleak show but it's not that bleak. I'm going off stage to get a plaster."

It was one of those moments where you just don't stop a play. I was left lying on the bed, not knowing what to do. I thought: "I can't stay here, I'm out of character". So I got up and went off. Then Pip

came back on, with a plaster, and said something ridiculous like "Where's my leading lady gone?"

So back I came and he picked a line and said "Let's go from there. I realised to my horror that the next thing I had to do was laugh and cry hysterically all over again. I thought: 'They'll know it's fake if I do it exactly the same a second time... so I did a shorter version. It wasn't as good, which was a shame, because it was

such a brief run and everyone wants the last performance to be the best one. But the audience probably enjoyed it more.

They got a kick out of the fact that something genuinely unexpected had happened in *Blasted*.

Kate Ashfield stars in 'Closer', at the Lyric Shaftesbury (0171-494 5045) Booking to 31 Oct
INTERVIEW BY DOMINIC CAVENDISH

An excellent criminal record

IT'S EASY to mock the hubris of fringe theatre companies, to knock the spirit of vaulting ambition that often sends our least experienced actors off to tackle the hardest works the canon can hurl at them.

The National Theatre of Brent has become a comic institution by repeatedly pillorying thespian delusions of grandeur with its shoe-string epics. A production of *Crime and Punishment* by 16 actors at the tiny Finborough in west London sounds like another example of a company with ideas above its venue. But the members of Steam Industry have come up trumps.

The main reason for this, oddly enough, is that they don't overreach themselves. The chosen text is the one Rodney Ackland devised in 1946 – little beard of after its initial run with John Gielgud and Edith Evans. The playwright remorselessly shredded those pages of gibbering monologues and fevered descriptions of St Petersburg low-life and delivered the bare bones of the story, confining the action to the house of Amalia Ludwigovna – the landlady of the wretched student Raskolnikov. The result is brief (one and three quarter hours) and to the point.

The Finborough's chicken coop space has been exploited by designers Tamasio Rhymes

ON THE FRINGE

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

and Rupert Tebb, who range us along three sides of the acting area in railed wooden stands, like nosy neighbours in a crowded tenement or jurors at a makeshift court. Stygian lighting reinforces a sense of the moral murk in which Raskolnikov can hatch his murder-friendly theory of a world divided between lice and men.

The biggest edit is that we aren't shown the old pawnbroker being bludgeoned to death, which helps both to sidestep melodrama and register how impalpable the crime is to its perpetrator. Mark Collinson strikes the perfect balance between loveable and contemptible rogue: as scrawny as an abandoned nut, this Raskolnikov's skin is so thin, we can almost see him twisting inside as he is goaded by police inspector Porfiri, whom the director, Phil Willmott, plays with a smug detachment.

An adaptation could probably thrive solely on the basis of this double-act. Certainly, the other parts are two-dimensional by comparison, so much so that the brief, bawling crowd scenes have the feel of *Past Show* sketches.

But the size of the cast isn't simply attention-seeking – by the time Raskolnikov's helpmeet, the pure-at-heart prostitute, Sonia (Kirsty McFarland), has persuaded him to confess his guilt in the streets, we are in little doubt that the society before which he kneels is so spiritually destitute as to lend him a kind of innocence.

In Sophocles' *Oedipus the King*, vigorously attempted by the National Youth Theatre, there is a similar journey towards an admission of culpability that the protagonist holds off until the last minute.

The trick, again, is to keep startling the audience, as though the pieces of the jigsaw detailing a tragedy whose outline is already familiar, were being put together for the first time. William Karel, the director, achieves this through the positioning of a massive 33-strong Theban chorus, who snuff, hiss, sing, chant and stomp their responses – punctuating a tribal steel drum beat with the insistent clatter of pots and pans.

Just shepherding them into position would have been worth an award, but there are some stunning tableaux, most omi-

nously, during Jocasta's revelations, their silhouettes rise up against the glowing cyclorama of Lottie Collett's parched landscape like gathering vultures. The ensemble posturings are more striking than the individual performances: Tom Padden's Oedipus has a delivery of Blair-like sanctimoniousness, which explains why the gods have got it in for him; initially impressive, the rapturous tone doesn't sit so well with defeat.

Neil Simon's 1985 gender rewrite of his 1965 flatmate-from-hell hit *The Odd Couple* lacks the freshness of the original – even supposing one could block out the memory of Walter Matthau's hangdog performance as Oscar, the man who takes in his snallyretive, suicidal chum and lives to regret it.

Still, Pinnacle Productions (a company set up for actors with day jobs) have a good stab, with Alexis Nishinaka and Anita Booth providing the laconic versus drizzly opposition needed to fire Simon's gags. So what if the apartment looks irredeemably Battersea? You gotta try.

'Crime and Punishment', Finborough Theatre, SW10, (0171-373 3842) to 19 Sept; *Oedipus the King*, Bloomsbury Theatre, WC1, (0171-388 8822) to 19 Sept; *The Odd Couple*, Grace Theatre, SW11, (0171-223 3549) to 26 Sept

A fine case of less is Moor

From a slimmed-down classic to riffs on classic films, Sue Wilson casts an eye over two shows currently touring Scotland

It may be a sad reflection on today's truncated attention spans, but there is no denying the sense, on reading the notices announcing that TAG's production of *Othello* runs for three hours, of bracing yourself for a potentially long, hard haul.

Mid-scale touring Shakespeare has a chequered history, to say the least, with too many companies acting as though the text's inherent artistic Brownie points obviate the need for creative effort on their part, or going to the opposite extreme and trying to be too clever by half.

TAG's slimmed-down – personally, at least – version thankfully plots a middle course between these poles, though the direction could certainly be pacier and the staging does feature some strangely jazzed-up elements, presumably in response to TAG's main brief of attracting younger audiences.

Particularly irritating is the use of electronic dance music. This is not to disapprove of the notion on principle, rather the fact that here it is not only out of place but completely superfluous, even where it is

not deleterious to the drama. Mostly, though the seven-strong cast deliver a solid display of mostly old-fashioned virtues, despite the non-period costumes – military uniforms for the men, plain dresses for the women – and futuristic set.

The latter remains something of an enigma, with its tall wire cages half-filled with what look like blue rocks, but serving effectively as a screen for the various episodes of spying and eavesdropping.

Ross Dunsmore's Iago stands out as the linchpin of the show, unusually borrowing certain elements of the similarly inscrutable but generally malevolent wit of clowns found elsewhere in Shakespeare. He introduces a sparkle of gleeful comedy into his machinations, in a manner highly reminiscent of Puck's "Lord, what fools these mortals be".

While he also exudes a suitably diabolic venom when appropriate, this more mercurial approach contrasts pointedly with his master's oratorical loftiness and weakness for grandstanding, together with the tendency to be blinded by his own exalted self-image – born of an outsider's insecur-

ities – characteristics sympathetically conveyed in Ade Sapara's stately portrayal. Veronica Leer breathes impressive life into the often thankless part of Desdemona, imbuing her with a blend of ardent vivacity and proud natural dignity. Her artless warmth helps set up a resonant opposition via the production's concentration on differences between male and female spheres of experience.

Othello's inexorable poisoning by the green-eyed monster is subtly cast in the light of current anxieties about men's emotional inarticulacy.

There's nothing remotely old-fashioned about Bench-tours' latest invention, *Carnival*, a joint venture with London's Insomniac Productions, devised in collaboration with writer Michael Duke but it might have helped considerably if there had been the odd nod to tradition.

For all the show's clever multi-media intertextuality – and other such buzz-words – it comes across as a set of stylistic and technical poses struck around a glaring absence of any elucidation. Set in a small, run-down hotel just

south of the Mexican border, where four American gangsters arrive for a rendezvous with the mysterious Smiley on the night before the Day of the Dead, it draws heavily on the conventions of classic film noir. *Overtones of Key Largo* and Buñuel's *Exterminating Angels*, says the programme. So heavily, in fact, that the actors start out lip-synching to a recorded soundtrack modelled on the genre.

This pretence that the play is really a film gradually breaks down as the characters begin to speak from the "scripted" dialogue, and, as the sound track stalls and loops back on itself, gives rise to all sorts of shenanigans with time-frames and continuity.

Beyond its welter of back-neyed postmodern juxtapositions, playing with the formal and conceptual differences between film and theatre, any underlying point to the exercise remains utterly elusive.

'Othello', at the Citizens Theatre, Glasgow (0141-429 0022) until Sat, then touring Scotland until 17 Oct; 'Carnival' is currently on tour

Champagne Charlie still earns a bob or two

Victorian pictorial sheet music offers both cultural insight and small-time investment.
By John Windsor

WHAT SORT of people would gather round the drawing room piano to sing songs about the crash of a Jumbo jet? Or President Clinton's peccadilloes? Or - here's a clue - romantic love at the Westminster Aquarium?

Victorian pictorial sheet music covers - one of the last cheap but truly historic collectables - reveal that the Victorians sang about virtually everything: disasters, wars, scandals, wonders of the age, romance, and everyday tribulations.

About 800 of the 3,000 sheet music covers being offered at Phillips' Bath saleroom on Monday - the biggest collection of them ever auctioned - are Victorian. Dating from the days of the £10 piano when, as we say, people had to make their own entertainment, they are a vivid insight into a white-collar world that was cynical, insensitive, suspicious of authority, yet convivial and determined to look on the bright side. You not only get a glimpse of the Victorians, in the lurid lithographs on the covers, but you hear them, too.

Their echoes have not completely died away; who cannot hum the tunes of "Two Lovely Black Eyes", "If You Want to Know the Time Ask a Policeman", "Yes, We Have No Bananas", "Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay" and "The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze"?

Phillips' covers are from the private collection of Nancy Mortimer, a retired nursery nurse aged 70, who began picking up covers for pennies after beginning piano lessons 20 years ago. She is one of only 10 or so collectors in the country - and the only one who lectures. She always gets a round of applause when she appears, usually before women's groups, dressed in a Victorian black velvet dress with tippet, poke bonnet, and a reticule made from jet beads. She displays her covers, plays tape recordings of songs such as "Champagne Charlie", and gets her audience to sing along to "Daisy, Daisy" and "Oh, Mr Porter".

"I've had such fun", she says. "At first, I thought how beautifully colourful the covers looked. Then I started getting interested in the events they commemorated, such as Captain Webb swimming the channel. I had never heard of him."

"It's a thrill in secondhand bookshops wondering what I might find. But when I ask for Victorian sheet music, a lot of them still do not know what I am talking about. I find them tucked away on bottom shelves."

You can still buy Victorian covers from their "golden age", 1860-1880, for a quid or two. Dealers who know what they are charge £5-£10. Victorian and Edwardian covers in the Phillips sale are mostly in lots of 25 to 50, estimated from £80 to £150. The musical sketch, "The Wreck of the Titanic", of 1912, in a lot estimated at £100-£150, contains a selection of ditties that round off with "Excitement on Board", "Lowering the Lifeboats" and "Buried at Sea". Drown in the sea of your own home, says Mrs. Mortimer.

The songs were first performed on the stage of Music Halls, in an engaging innuendo-style with plenty of audience participation that had originated in the old saloons and free



Victorian and Edwardian sheet music is still one area where the pocket-money collector can invest for the future Phillips

casualties. They were therefore well suited to the intimacy of the home - especially piano duets of love songs.

There were songs in celebration of the Great Exhibition of 1851, of the Great Eastern steamship, of Royal weddings - even of the penny post. Some songs, such as "Let's Enjoy Life While We Can", popular in the 1850s and 1860s, were designed to uplift audiences who visited the pambroker as often as they did the Music Hall. They were sung in a style laced with irony. As for the "Westminster Aquarium" - it was a popular trysting place for lovers. "Three Nice Old Ladies Went to the Aquarium" is one of the risqué titles on offer in the sale.

The male stars of the Music Hall adopted the role of musical savants in evening dress, who epitomised the Victorian values of the songs they sang. They were a mixture of chumminess, vanity, sexism and jingoism. (The Great Macdermott, sang: "We

don't want to fight, But by Jingo if we do," coining the word). The top stars were paid more than £100 a week, provided with carriages by theatres and lionised by audiences.

George Leybourne was Champagne Charlie ("Champagne Charlie is my name, Champagne Charlie is my game"). He was suspected of accepting back-handers from Most of Chandon. The most famous of them all was "The Great Vance", a versatile performer who died on stage. Ms Mortimer made contact with Vance's granddaughter who told her that her grandmother, Vance's wife, had never spoken of her husband's stage exploits. She considered them rather sinful.

Even in Victorian times, covers were collected for their artwork. Ms Mortimer's most expensive purchase was a leather-bound album of 20 songs, dated 1864, all with covers by the same early Victorian artist, the dandy and pop, John Brandart: she

paid £100. The other great sheet-music artist was another dandy, Alfred Concanen. At least 400 covers by him have been traced. He was a master of lithography who worked from photographs and is best known for outdoor scenes drawn with bravura and lavishly coloured.

There are plenty of Concanens in Phillips' sale. His work fetches higher prices, especially when it shows a famous performer. Two Concanens, one of The Great Vance, the other of Champagne Charlie, are in a lot of 25 covers with the highest estimate in the sale, £150-£200.

The London bookseller and ephemeraist, David Drummond (the "doyen of Cecil Court"), says he could expect to sell a stunning Concanen cover for £50, but his top price so far has been £35. Most of his Victorian covers are priced £5-£12.50. Both he and Ms Mortimer emphasise that collectors should not break the covers from the music. All the sheet

music in the sale is unbroken.

Ms Mortimer's covers, gleaned on outings to towns within reach of her home in Melksham, Wiltshire, is an example of what the pocket-money collector can achieve, even today. Few other collectables mirror so accurately the mores of a bygone age.

At present, their fascination exceeds their investment value, but the standard textbook on them, Ronald Pearshall's *Victorian Sheet Music Covers* (David & Charles, 1972), now out of print, is changing hands among enthusiasts for over £20, which must mean something. Snap up these Victorian gems whenever you spot them. Their time will come.

The Nancy Mortimer collection of coloured sheet music (1830-1970) Monday 14 September (11am): Phillips, 1 Old King Street, Bath, Avon (01225-310609). David Drummond, 11 Cecil Court, Charing Cross Road, WC2, (0171-836 1142)

Lose your head and you'll lose your money

THE FIXERS



TIM COCKERILL

OUCH! WALL Street is down 500 points, and the FTSE 100 is sure to follow in an equally spectacular manner. That was how the day started, and shortly after 9am the phones started ringing with concerned clients who had caught the latest news.

First on the phone was a Mr Keegan, who immediately asked the burning question: "How bad is it?"

Falling markets are very emotional for investors, especially as the televised news sensationalises the losses, which does nothing to calm investors' nerves. "It is fine," I replied. "The FTSE 100 is only down 120 points."

"How much money will I have lost?"

"Really that all depends on where you have invested," I replied. I then discovered that Mr Keegan was not actually one of our clients but had in the past received literature from us.

"I have got a well spread portfolio, some in the UK, some in America, some in Europe and some in the Far East." A well spread portfolio is, of course, beneficial in times of falling markets but it does depend on the underlying stocks held.

"My main concern," he continued, "is a holding I purchased very recently in Fidelity ASEAN. I thought it was good to buy the Far East after it had fallen so much but now I am not so sure."

"That was a very brave move," I said. "Troubles in the Far East are by no means over, and that particular fund has a very high exposure to Malaysia which has got some fairly major political problems at present as well."

"Should I pull out and cut my losses, or do you think I should stay put?" It was at this stage of the conversation that I was about to discover whether Mr Keegan was a speculator or an investor.

"Did you invest in this fund and all your other funds with the long-term view in mind?" I asked.

"Yes, I do not need the money. It is there for at least five, if not 10, years."

"In that case you really should not worry, the worst thing you can do is to come out of the market at a time when it has fallen heavily. I cannot guarantee that the market will not be lower in the next few months. However, if you have taken a long-term view and do not need the money, then you should sit tight and ride the storm out."

Mr Keegan then asked about two of his other funds, INVESCO European Growth and Fidelity Special Situations. His question this time was whether, even though he has held them both for some time and made good money, he should cash them in and then reinvest the money when the market falls further.

"Both are excellent funds, and there is no need to dispose of either if they fit in with your investment strategy and you have got that long-term perspective," I replied. "Timing the market is

extremely difficult. You can certainly say it is cheaper today than it was a month ago but there is no guarantee it is going to be cheaper in a few days or weeks.

"So, if you did sell your Fidelity Special Situations and INVESCO European Growth funds, you may find that you are left with cash as the market rises. Sit tight."

The big danger in playing the strategy Mr Keegan was suggesting is that you miss some major rises in the markets when sentiment turns. If you look back at market performance it is quite noticeable that, by being out of the market during a small number of days when it rises strongly, your long-term results can suffer seriously.

Despite my words and Mr Keegan's assurance that he was a long-term investor, he persisted in exploring other opportunities that might help him. He next asked: "Should I

By being out of the market during a small number of days when it rises strongly, your long-term results can suffer seriously

invest in a protected fund so that, if the market falls again, I will be safe?"

"I do not see any point in buying a protected fund after the market has fallen; they are for cautious investors taking a long-term view, or they can be used to lower the risk of a portfolio after a long bull run in the market," I said.

"Had you bought a protected fund when the FTSE 100 index reached 6,000, you would be doing very nicely, thank you. But you have got to bear in mind protection costs, and the performance of these funds when the market rises has, in some instances, been disappointing."

"So all told, your advice is to stay put and not move," Mr Keegan said.

"Yes," I replied. "If you have got your investment strategy right at the outset then you can ride out sharp corrections in markets in comfort."

Tim Cockerill is managing director of the independent financial advisers Whitechurch Securities, which is based at 14 Gloucester Road, Bristol, BS7 8AE (0117 9442266)

Low inflation turns the tables on endowment mortgages

After years of being out of favour, repayment schemes are all the rage. By Rachel Fixsen

THE REPAYMENT mortgage is back in favour. The image of its main rival, the endowment mortgage, has been well and truly tarnished, and now another sparring partner, the PEP mortgage, is also down in the popularity stakes.

Repayment mortgages now account for 43 per cent of all mortgages taken out, up from 24 per cent five years ago.

Just 32 per cent of all home loans are now endowment mortgages, down from around 80 per cent in the last decade.

Lenders put the change down to low inflation. Sue Anderson, at the Council of Mortgage Lenders, says: "When inflation is low there is obviously an advantage to paying your mortgage off, but when inflation is high and is eroding the value of your mortgage, that's not the case."

There are four main types of mortgage repayment: with capital

and interest repayment, each month's payment to the lender consists of interest due on the loan and a certain amount of capital.

In the early years, the payments are mostly interest and very little capital, and the balance shifts towards interest as the term of the mortgage goes on.

The other types are endowment, PEP and pension mortgages.

These are all interest-only mortgages, coupled with an investment product. The borrower pays interest to the lender and premiums into an investment product, the idea being that at the end of the term, the investment portion will have grown large enough to pay off the mortgage in full.

Repayment mortgages are generally slightly cheaper than others. For a couple aged about 40,

monthly payments on a £100,000 loan over 20 years at a capped rate of 6.59 per cent would be £818.28 a month, including term life assurance, according to the independent financial adviser Dawn Slater.

The monthly cost of an endowment mortgage for the same couple at the same rate would be £828.32, while a PEP deal would cost £848.21. Tax relief is available, and would cut these figures by around £15 a month.

Which type of repayment you decide to opt for depends largely on your attitude to risk.

Endowment and PEP mortgages rely on the performance of investments. Opting for a capital and interest repayment mortgage is the safest way, says Ms Slater. "It's the only way you can guarantee to get the mortgage paid."

The main attraction of endowment and PEP mortgages is that the investment will perform well and provide an extra lump sum.

Some borrowers have found that their endowment policy is not even on track to pay off the mortgage, and have had to increase premiums.

And some of those who surrendered their endowment policies in the early years, perhaps because of divorce, found they got less money back than they had put in because of high charges levied at the start of the policy's life.

Anyway, the prospect of making a large profit is little more than a forlorn hope, says Philip Telford, of the Consumers' Association.

"You may have £10,000 more, but after 25 years think how much that would be worth... and that's if you stay the course."

"Thirty per cent of people have to cash in their endowment policy in the first 10 years," he says.

Ms Slater defends endowment mortgages. Provided you do not cash them in early, traditional with-profits endowment policies have generally done well, she says.

The bad press has centred around certain mortgage providers, while others, including General Accident, have consistently come up trumps, she says.

PEP mortgages became popular in the Nineties. PEPs are far more flexible as investment products and charges are spread more evenly. However, they are more risky than endowment policies.

Next April they will be replaced with ISAs, (individual savings accounts), and although PEPs can be transferred to ISAs, the choice of

PEP has become more limited recently, ahead of the change.

Many people find that lenders and advisers steer them away from repayment mortgages and towards PEP or endowment mortgages. Repayment mortgages are not portable, it is claimed.

"It's a myth," says Philip Telford. "I don't think that there is a portability problem."

It is true that if you move house during the 25-year term, with a repayment mortgage you have to repay the mortgage and start again with a new term. But there is nothing to stop you taking a shorter mortgage term the next time.

However, in practice the temptation to take out another 25-year mortgage often proves too much to resist. "Most of the time, people want to keep their costs down," says

Ms Slater. "The shorter the mortgage term for a repayment mortgage, the higher the monthly cost will be, because of the capital repayment element."

Financial advisers get more commission for selling an endowment mortgage than for the life insurance that usually goes with a repayment mortgage. Though the commission level is about the same, and can be 33 per cent of premiums paid in the first three years, a typical endowment policy premium would be around 10 times the premium of a term life insurance contract, says Mr Telford.

Of course, a good adviser will recommend the best product for the client, regardless of commission, but watch out for the bad ones.

Dawn Slater Associates: 01635 45325; Consumers' Association: 0171-830 6000; Council of Mortgage Lenders: 0171-440 2235

Management accountants are on a roll. Time to rationalise the training? By Roger Trapp

Engine room vs boardroom

IGNORE FOR the moment the need to rationalise the governance of accountancy, and it is hard to see why the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (Cima) is even considering throwing its lot with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (Acca) and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (Cipfa).

By common consent, the management accountants are on a roll. Chartered accountants have tended to look down on a qualification that is associated with factory floors and the engine rooms, rather than boardrooms, of business. But leading firms are now starting to share the views of the recruitment consultants who have for some time been stressing the value of management accountancy to a whole range of businesses.

With the Institute of Chartered Accountants' latest plans to update its training syllabus in danger of being jeopardised by the traditionalists, at least one executive with a Big Five firm has let it be known that his operation would be interested in shifting numbers from the institute's training scheme if a viable alternative emerged.

Such views are a vindication of the vision of Peter Layhe, president of Cima, to create out of his organisation, Acca and Cipfa, a body that can rival the institute in size and influence.

However, it is fair to say that the most attractive specialisms would



Accountants with experience of the shop floor are in demand

Glyn Griffiths

be likely to be management accountancy. The certified qualification is hugely popular overseas, but tends to be regarded in the UK as a second fiddle to the institute's, and the transformation of public sector accounting into something closer to that practised in the private sector may be reducing the need for a full-blown separate qualification.

But management accountancy is, as James Wheeler, chief executive of Hewitson-Walker, points out, popular "in the market at large". By which he means business as a whole, as opposed to the "mini-markets" of the City and public practice. But, he adds, even investment banks have been taking on graduates with the aim of putting them

through management accountancy training because they have not been totally satisfied with newly qualified chartered accountants.

All these organisations are seeing the high "added value" in the report-writing skills, budgeting and analysis - combined with practical IT skills - that are the management accountant's stock-in-trade.

Jeff Groat, managing director of Robert Half International, says that the popularity of the qualification is largely a "reflection of the changing role of the accountant". The chartered accountant's training may be more rigorous, but the management accountant is reckoned to be "more practical, more commercial and more relevant".

But it is not just employers who are seeing the value of the qualification. Recruitment consultants report that many graduates who previously would not have gone off to the top firms, even if they intended to go into business later, are now opting to go straight there.

People are making a "much more balanced decision about whether to go through chartered accountancy or to go out into the big wide world", says Mr Wheeler. Mr Groat agrees. There is, he says, a growing appreciation that they may get a wider education through Cima than through the chartered route - though he adds that, highly rated as the management accountancy qualification is in Britain, it is not nearly as well known overseas as the chartered.

In an effort to correct this, his company is organising seminars in European cities to explain the role of management accountants. If foreign companies get that message, then his conviction that management accountancy is "the passport to a career in business" can be borne out.

Russia's got us by the roubles

THE TRADER



IT MIGHT have been better all round if Laura hadn't removed Norman's life-history from the "Obviously made-up CVs" section of Rory's filing system. The look on Norman's face would have been a laugh, if nothing else, and laughs are in short supply round here at the moment.

The problem - surprise, surprise - is Russia, which is finding out the hard way that there's more to being capitalist than drinking Coke. Curiously so one there seems to have considered that it might be easier to reform if you change the people running the country, not just the name of their party. But that's politics for you: anyone bright enough to be good at it is bright enough to steer well clear.

The result of this stupidity is misery all round. "You're not wrong," says Neil. "I mean, we can kiss goodbye to our bonuses for a start." I gently point out that I was actually thinking about the man on the Moscow street, but Neil's having none of it. "They can't have lost more than a few hundred dollars each. That's not all compared to what I was expecting to pull down this year. They've no right to be miserable at all."

He does have a point about the bonuses. The last time round, I effectively doubled my income for the year. This Christmas, I'll be surprised if there's enough in the coffers to pay for wrapping paper. Not that any of the big cheeses has said anything about how badly we've been hit by the problems in Moscow. Still, if BankAmerica and Deutsche have had to fess up to being caned on their exposure to the teetering former superpower, I find it hard to believe our lot have got away scot-free.

So we just have to sit and wait for the board to let us in on what's happening. "Or we could just find out about it in the *Financial Times*, as usual,"

says Laura, no doubt remembering previous occasions when the hunches "forgot" to tell their staff before they told the journalists. "It's so stupid," she continues. "They must realise how wound up everyone gets wondering if they're waving goodbye to their bonuses or maybe even their jobs, and all because someone's been going: 'A loan, Mr Veltso'. Of course. Take double. And don't worry about security."

Jenny the Junior stamps over to take the lurch orders, and announces she's going to the new sandwich place on the other side of the City. "It'll get me out of this dump for at least half an hour," she says. "Well, it's all you lot sitting around like someone's died, just coz you think your bonuses have gone walkabout. You'll be leaving flowers on the steps of the Stock Exchange next. Besides, the support staff don't ever get handouts anyway."

She hasn't gone far when Norman calls her back. "Everybody stay at your desks for a second. I want to have a quick meeting about this memo from upstairs. I think it will bring a smile to your faces."

Laura and I look at each other. Is this the bombshell we've been expecting?

Norman continues: "It's good news. The board is categorically denying that we have been in any way affected by the problems in Russia."

"Oh Laura," I say. "It's even worse than we expected."

IN BRIEF

FIRMS CONSIDERING floating on the stock market should pay more attention to preparing the way, say the accountants Ernst & Young. The firm's survey of more than 500 chief executives of fast-growing companies found that more than a quarter judged their floatations unsuccessful, with nearly two-thirds attributing this to a lack of preparation.

THE TOP 20 accountancy firm Salfrey Champness claims its

focus on high-net-worth private clients and owner-managers has been vindicated by strong growth over the past year. The firm said net fees of early £2m were well ahead of budget; its position had been strengthened by hiring extra private-client specialists from rival practices.

ALISTAIR DEFRIEZE, director general of the takeover panel, heads the list of speakers at a conference on 29 September intended to

guide practitioners through the workings of the revised City code on takeovers and mergers. The event, which will be addressed by several prominent solicitors, takes place at London's Four Seasons Hotel.

INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES remain positive about their own prospects, despite worries about the economy as a whole, says the St Ives Enterprise Barometer Index. The survey, which

measures views on the business climate by companies in which St Ives invests, shows that most owner-managers expect turnover, profitability and investment to increase or remain stable for the current quarter.

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Cruise itinerary

- 5.30-6.45pm - Welcome aboard drinks, Charing Cross Pier - find out what it's really like to work and live abroad at our exhibition of worldwide career routes
- 6.45pm - Cast off - Cruise towards Chelsea Bridge and Kew
- 6.50pm - Cruise plan - Adrian Slater, Director, Hays International, outlines the cruise objectives and brings
- 7.00pm - "Destination USA" - Steve Siegel, managing partner of a leading practice from Illinois and president of an International association of accountants, describes how you can head west and advance your career in commerce and industry or within public practice
- 7.30pm - "Global leaders, African innovators" - Caroline Rivett, senior manager, Ernst & Young, Cape Town, outlines what it takes to succeed in a big five firm in South Africa and worldwide
- 8.00pm - "Which way now?" - Conclusions and choices resulting from the presentations
- 8.10pm - Buffet - as well as informal discussions on what you need to know next
- 9.15-9.30pm - Disembark at Charing Cross Pier

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July 20 1998

Your desk says more about you than your CV – and bosses know it. By Kate Hilpern

The secret life of desks

Are you prone to work-space customisation? Are there so many photos, pot-plants and Jarvis Cocker posters surrounding your desk that the phrase "taking work home" might as well be replaced by "bringing home to work"? Or is your desk in such excellent nick that you can actually see your own reflection in it?

Whatever the answer, it probably says a lot more about you than you think. A recent study by recruitment agency Adecco Africa Marks claims that, simply by analysing a desk's contents, employers can tell a lot about their employees than they are studying a CV. "Desks can reveal their owners' innermost secrets, inhibitions, lifestyle and professional ambitions," explains psychologist Donna Dawson, who carried out the study. What's more, your worktop is very often the first impression that people get of you – and, in business, first impressions count.

According to Dawson, there are six principal "desk personalities", two of which win hands down for tidiness. But since they are almost opposites in terms of character, it takes close analysis to differentiate them accurately.

"First, the desk of the 'super-organised' desktop personality is functional and neat with no fuss or frills." Likely to be inhabited by a super-efficient PA or secretary, this desktop is largely taken up by essential office equipment, leaving little room for clutter, save for a few neat piles of paperwork.

Sounds like someone completely lacking personality? Well, you would be wrong because, according to Dawson, personal relationships are a priority to the "super-organised". "This personality wants to feel needed and is charming and helpful when relied upon. But the nonsense neatness also masks a small chip on its owner's shoulder due to perceived lack of appreciation."

The "show desktop" personality, on the other hand, has obliterated any signs of personality. Also ultra-neat, this desk differs from "super-organised" by its size — if only because its owner is likely to be a departmental head or high-flying PA who is either compiling her boss's desk or, by erecting an image of what she believes the boss's desk ought to resemble. Don't be too surprised if you see this person straightening up pens on *your* desk.

Bare space is essential to this personality largely because space spells effluence. Think of the acres of space on the desks of Tony Blair or Bill Clinton when they are photographed seated behind them. Dawson explains: "Although friendly within their own social group, once behind the 'show desk' they adopt a professional mask and forced bonhomie where necessary. This personality is astute and good at assessing strengths and weaknesses so can never be caught off guard."

Then there are the two narcissistic personalities. Most offices have at least one "trophy" desktop personality who insists on displaying certificates of accomplishment,



Portrait of the person as a desk space. The area where you work is more of a signature than you realise

Neville Elder

whether it be on the rugby pitch or the latest Windows course. The odd photograph taken in some luxurious holiday resort or ashtray from the Middle East often sneak their way in, too. "On the surface this desk appears slightly haphazard," explains Dawson, "but each trophy will be strategically and deliberately placed for maximum effect."

"These people are natural leaders and motivators because they think big, but they need to be appreciated or they are prone to discontent [antrums and sulking]."

The "personality extension" desktop personality, however, doesn't care where her postcards and ashtrays are from. In fact, it seems she doesn't care where any of her personal belongings come from, provided they cocoon her entire workstation. Here you'll find more make-up than a Boots cosmetic counter, not to mention all the cuddly mascots and flowers that get

turned into potpourri at a later date. Mini larders appear by PCs along with sachets of sugar, despite being freely available from the office kitchen. "These personalities are always on the go," explains Dawson. "They need constant entertainment, and, although friendly and talkative, are not always discreet."

Finally, there are the chaotic types. The "organised chaos" desktop personality would love to be tidy but panics if everything isn't to hand. "He or she uses a filing system consisting of many different piles of paper, overflowing on to the floor and under the desk," says Dawson. "Crucial deadlines are remembered by a sophisticated, multiple sticky-note method."

This individual is a workaholic, but the chaos leads to stress and worry, meaning coffee and fags are often needed as constant stimulants. Despite the hysteria, however, this person likes a good chat to break the

monotony and is a good, flexible cross-thinker.

More interesting clutter surrounds the workstation of the "creative chaos" desktop personality—books, for instance, or drawings and photos revealing an agile and creative mind. Dawson says: "Though occasionally distracted, this per-

personality is a great lateral thinker and a good source of ideas. Like the 'organised chaos' desk owner, this type needs to have things at hand, but only knows vaguely where everything is, and work is often misplaced. Modern technology does not feature strongly on the creative chaos desk."

But what about the recent widespread introduction of clean desk policies? Some companies do not even allow employees to keep personal items in top drawers, so how on earth can they reveal anything about their owners? Judi James, a well known business trainer, claims that this just means bosses look more

carefully in other areas, a favourite being under your desk where you put your feet. "It's a bit like standing in front of someone in a smart business suit and checking out their shoes. They often say a lot more than the rest of the image put together - in terms of whether they are new, polished or colour co-ordinated."

But the most obvious personality giveaway in the millennium office, claims James, will be the screen-saver. "Flying Through Space is a sure sign of a dull personality while the changing shapes which resemble complex building scaffolding can show high intellect."

Then there are the ego-maniacs who have their names scrolled across the screen in various sizes and, of course, the restless and insecure workers who change their every five minutes." Even the most orderly employers, claims James, will never obliterate clues to personality altogether. "It's just not in their interests."

The boss's 'exes' file

ONE OF the things you do if you're a PA is deal with the mail. So naturally, when the PA's away, the boss expects the temp to know what to do with every letter that comes in. And what you do is pick the brains of the people working around you about memos, invoices, statements, magazines, slips of pink paper with holes munched in them.



THE TEMP

Which means that, sometimes, you make a blooper. Ellen Armitage is one of those bosses who takes three-hour lunches while her underlings slog it out over a sandwich at their desks; one of those bosses who says she has a meeting on the dot of 4.45 while the rest of the department stays until eight each night; one of those bosses who always, but always, manages to blame cock-ups on someone else. She pockets corporate freebies – tickets, trips, bottles of booze, pens with advertisements on – before they reach the rest of the department. She was once heard on the telephone telling a crony how proud she was of how she kept her slaves in line. There are 17 people working beneath her, cramped into a room 20ft by 15, because she refuses to

confront management about health and safety. "I lived with it," she says. "Now you can, too."

So there I am, paper knife in hand, rubber thimble on my right thumb to protect against paper cuts and those ragged slashes you get from careless contact with staples, when I open one of those orange envelopes with the boxes on the front for internal recycling, and out falls a filled-in expense form with her name at the top and a fistful of receipts tacked on with a paperclip.

I look at it for a bit, wonder what I'm supposed to do with it. Then I take it over to Sue, who tends to be quite helpful. "Any idea what I'm supposed to do with this?"

Sue takes it, glances, then peers. "My God," she says. "Carey," says Sue, "come here a minute."

Carey takes it and says: "Oh My Gaaaad." I'm still standing there going "What?" as the entire department rushes over, going "I don't believe it" and "Christ on a bike".

"Where did you get this?" asks Carey. "It just came down in the internal post." I say. "Why? What's wrong? What have I done?" And she grabs me, kisses me and tells me I'm a genius, that's what. "The MD's PA must have sent this back to her by accident rather than forwarding it to accounts," she says. "We've been trying to get a look at her 'exes' for months, but she always takes them upstairs by hand."

"Right," says Jamie, sitting down. "Let's see. Sue, she didn't take you out to lunch on the 18th, did she?" "Lunch?" says Sue. "She's never even offered me a sandwich." "Well, she spent £50 on you, apparently. And £40 on taking me to lunch on the 18th. And you" — he nods at Mike — "accompanied her on a fact-finding mission to Bournemouth last Sunday." "Ogogodog," says Sue, squirming in her chair. Mike stabs a receipt for £170 from a Turkish restaurant. "Look!" he crows. "Her daughter's

birthday party! What's that?" Carey leaps through the sheet. "Entertaining clients." Mike cackles. "Wonder what the cheese will say when he finds out the clients are 12 years old?" "Samples!" cries Jamie. "Samples from Chanel?" "Samples?" says Maria. "I know what that sample is. She's been wearing it on her arse for the last three weeks."

Jamie bashes me on the back with the violence of one who is well pleased. "You're a blimmin' star!" he cries. "We're going to get you so drunk tonight you won't believe!" They all fall quiet as the enormity of their discovery sinks in, then start jumping around and hugging each other.

Then Sharon shouts a warning from by the door. Sue shoves the fatal document in her bottom drawer, and they all scurry back to their desks. Ellen Armitage enters the room, smoothing her Chanel skirt over her hips. Everyone bends over their work, rattling furiously at keyboards. No one meets anyone's eye. Ellen eyes them like a lizard; she knows something's up. "You're all very quiet," she says. "What's up? Someone died or something?"

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Cultural awareness can mean the difference between success and failure. By Kate Hilpern

When it is polite to burp

WHEN YOUR boss's French client signals a V-sign to you across the conference table, you could be forgiven for being upset. But to her, it merely indicates the need for a cigarette. When your boss's Saudi Arabian client refuses the company gift that took you an entire lunch time to choose, you could be forgiven for feeling furious. But to him, giving gifts with your left hand is an insult. And when the oenophile client from Bahrain lets out an almighty burp after eating the last Danish pastry, you could be forgiven for finally having enough of all this rudeness and taking the rest of the day off. But to him, it is a sign of appreciation.

No wonder, then, that it is finally being recognised that to get on in the British office environment - where companies are increasingly in pursuit of European and global trade - it is essential to be aware of cultural blunders. "Too many office staff assume that, just because they can't speak their language, there's no hope of creating any kind of impression with a Chinese client," ex-

plains Angelena Boden, author of *The Cultural Cakes* pocketbook. But body language, attitude and preferences in food and drink are just a few of the ways you can screw up and even cause a deal to be lost.

Indeed, Judi James, author of *Bodytalk* (£9.95, The Industrial Society) says that only 7 per cent of the impact of any message is verbal, 38 per cent is tone of voice, and 55 per cent is non-verbal. So if you smile at an Italian, it is seen as polite; but if you do the same to a Korean, you will be seen as mega-pushy, as smiles are reserved for personal relationships.

Britain has one of the worst reputations for unwittingly insulting other nationalities. Anthony Sell, chief executive of the British Tourist Authority explains: "Britain has acquired a reputation as a country that does things its way, and if the overseas visitor understands and adapts, so much the better."

New research from the University of Luton has shown that a vast number of small- and medium-size UK companies are suffering because

they are simply not making the effort. Nearly half of the responding companies that proved less profitable at exporting, used agents only when doing business abroad - putting a barrier between themselves and potential clients.

For the PA or secretary, greetings and courtesies must be spot on - if only because you are often the first company representative a foreigner sees. Boden stresses: "The two golden rules are never to make judgements just because someone doesn't do as the British do, and always to take the lead from the other person."

According to John Mole, author of *Mind Your Manners: Managing Business Cultures in Europe*, the telephone is one of the biggest danger areas. "Imagine a foreign client hearing, 'Just bear with me a moment'. It will be totally incomprehensible. Alternatively, imagine them being spoken to in the crisp, forbidding telephone manner British people are so fond of. When you're not used to it, it probably seems very rude." Humour, he says, is another

liability. "Crack a joke to a German who is about to enter a meeting and it won't be well received. That's not because Germans don't have a sense of humour; it's just that humour has no place in business. Finns, on the other hand, seem to love a good joke to break the ice." Punctuality is important, too. "It is classic in Britain that a 9am appointment starts at 9.15am, but if you're Dutch or Scandinavian, not starting promptly would be extremely impolite."

Even if there is no language barrier, *finer* you can be made even when dealing with North Americans, explains Boden. "Canadians can become very prickly if you assume they are from the United States, and if you give an American a business lunch in which the portions and choice are small and there is no iced water on the tables, you'll just be fulfilling their worst stereotypes about Britain."

Where languages do differ, experts agree that it is worth making a slight effort. Richard Branson recently told the *Electronic Telegraph*:

"When I was in Japan setting up Virgin's businesses, I managed to learn a few words of Japanese. Just to see the smiles on people's faces made me realise how important it can be."

The University of Luton recently won backing for a project worth £5.6m to implement remedial action. Eamon Keenan, project manager of Languages and Culture for Business (LCB), explains: "Our training targets one individual, such as a PA or secretary, who can go back to their company and reach everyone else. Some companies even have to look at their names. Vauxhall Nova realised that marketing in Spain would be a bit of a problem since 'no va' means 'does not go' in Spanish."

Companies who lag behind culturally can even go under. The LCB project director Frank Burdett, cites one company where receivers were called in. In a filing cabinet, they discovered an order from Germany so big that it could have saved the business. Nobody had been able to understand it.



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NEW FILMS

HANDS (AKA PALMS) (PG)

Director: Attila Iltis
The director of this harrowing semi-documentary has been compared to Pasolini and Tarkovsky, the press notes assure us, but though this is an imaginatively realised rumination on the workings of the modern world, the picture is deadening in a way that those directors' best work never was. The film is simple and precise in its methods; as images of downtrodden and forgotten citizens - amputees, beggars, the very young, the elderly - are played out before us in a moving collage, a man narrates a message to his unborn child, who may be being aborted even as he speaks.
West End: Renoir

HE GOT GAME (18)

Director: Spike Lee
Starring: Denzel Washington, Milla Jovovich
The plot of Spike Lee's muddled tale is pure poppycock: Jake Shuttleworth (Denzel Washington) is doing time for the murder of his wife, but is offered a deal, out of the blue, which could cut short his sentence. It has come to the attention of the Governor that Jake's son, Jesus (Ray Allen), is the country's hottest new basketball star, with all the majors competing to sign him up. If Jake can convince Jesus to sign with the Governor's alma mater, then he can look forward to early release. Jake agrees, and is dispatched into the outside world on this errand. However, there is one seemingly insurmountable obstacle in Jake's path - his son has vowed never to forgive him for his mother's murder.

If the impression this gives is of a politically correct soap opera, then that's close to how *He Got Game* comes across. Few directors have made such a swift impact on cinema as Lee - but equally, few have gone on to have such a variable career. Lee coaxes an impressive performance from Washington, but it is his own stylistic excesses which are the film's undoing.
West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero

THE LAND GIRLS (12)

Director: David Leland
Starring: Catherine McCormack, Rachel Weiss, Anne Friel, Steven Mackintosh
See *The Independent Recommends*, right
West End: Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

THE LAST DAYS OF DISCO (15)

Director: Whit Stillman
Starring: Chloe Sevigny, Kate Beckinsale, Chris Eigeman
In the fictional club at the centre of Whit Stillman's dry and slightly sad comedy, everything sparkles - under the light from the glitterball, the dancers are united in their absent-minded beauty, and pockets of glitter fall from the ceiling even as the club is being busted by cops. But you couldn't accuse the picture of being nostalgic - as with Stillman's previous films (*Metropolitan* and *Barcelona*), actions and emotions unfold with a knowing wink toward the future.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

SPECIES II (18)

Director: Peter Medak
Starring: Michael Madsen, Natasha Henstridge, George Dzundza
Ludicrous science-fiction horror about a strand of deadly alien DNA carried back to earth in the bodies of astronauts. Cornball dialogue and a healthy abundance of sex and violence make this passable B-movie fun.
West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

Ryan Gilbey

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

Film Ryan Gilbey

FANS OF THE X-FILES (left) television series have been heard to complain that the show's itinerant approach to conspiracy theories had taken some of the lustre out of the subject. In which case, the film version isn't likely to offer any compensation. But it looks splendid on the big screen. David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson reprise their roles as FBI agents Mulder and Scully, and the screenplay gives them a meaty conundrum to chew on.
On general release

Theatre Dominic Cavendish

AFTER A much-appreciated run in July, tonight sees the return of Ubu Kinsai, Luis Alberto Soto's irreverent rework of Alfred Jarry's influential schoolboy satire on tyrants. Soto, who takes the role of the bums-are, foul-mouthed conqueror, is assisted by two other performers, a chrysanthemum, a bowl of tomatoes and some kitchen utensils. Simple, yet highly effective.
Young Vic, The Cuff, London SE1 (0171-838 6363) 7.45pm
Having been praised in the rafters in Edinburgh, the National Theatre of Brent's cross-wired dramatisation of the Charles and Di (right) story. Love upon the throne, comes to London. Very funny, but not disrespectfully so.
Bush Theatre, London W12 (0181-743 3388) 8pm

Pop Tim Perry

JAPANESE SAMPLING, riffing wonderkid Cornelius (right) brings his full-on bag of surprises to the UK for his first major show. Described as sounding like Brian Wilson if he had access to current technology back in the days of his creative peak, Cornelius blends sublime pop moments with some real "out-there" stuff. His *Fontasma* album remains one of this year's highlights and tonight promises all sorts of sonic bleeps and offbeat visuals.
L.A., London W1 (0171-434 0401) 8pm
Another band who are massive in their own country are Sweden's dark-edged pop quartet Kent. Outselling the likes of the Cardigans and the Womads back home, with all three of their albums hitting the top spot, they'll be playing a much smaller venue than they're used to. This gig kicks off a mini-residency which sees them playing the cramped Monarch every Wednesday this month.
Monarch, London NW1 (0171-916 1049) 8pm

Poetry Judith Palmer

ONE FISH, two fish, red fish, blue fish... London Zoo's sleek young poet-in-residence, Tobias Hill, celebrates his new post tonight by opening up the Aquarium for an evening of Poetry among the Piranhas. A ticklish occasion for the little fished fellows since Hill's only fish poems to date have been about sushi - "inch-cuts of raw sardine / converted into shoals of sweat". Hill will however be reading lots of new poems about other beasts from his forthcoming collection, *Zoo*. Joining him among the leopard eels and lion-fish is the magnificently dry-witted Carol Ann Duffy (right). Entrance includes free wine, a chance to explore the aquarium, and interval music from a harpist - presumably to humour the angelfish.
The Aquarium, London Zoo, Prince Albert Gate, Outer Circle, Regent's Park, London NW1. 7.30pm, tickets £8 in advance only from the Poetry Society (0171-420 8995)

GENERAL RELEASE

ARMAGEDDON (12)

This deeply stupid film purports to be a tender love story, a meaty action adventure and a global disaster movie in a meteor is on a collision course with Earth. Its jumble of styles will end up pleasing no one. Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE AVENGERS (12)

Ralph Fiennes does the bowler hat and wields the cane as Steed, Uma Thurman pours herself into a catsuit as Emma Peel, while Sean Connery sashays around in a kilt as Angus De Winter, who plans to take over the world by controlling the weather. Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE (U)

Feature-length exploits for the big, jolly dinosaur whose blend of nursery rhymes, Day-glo colours and moral lessons make him ideal for the more undemanding pre-school viewer, an endurance test for anyone else. Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

LE BOSSU (15)

Sumptuous swashbucklers are fast becoming French cinema's stock-in-trade. This effort doesn't break much new ground, but is acted and shot with such braggadocio that its lack of originality is never a problem. ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Mayfair

EVE'S BAYOU (15)

Rites-of-passage drama set in Louisiana locations which have been devalued by too many Southern Comfort ads. Despite some intuitive observations, this feels for the most part like reheated Fried Green Tomatoes. Odeon Mezzanine, Plaza, Virgin Trocadero

GADJO DILO (15)

A young Parisian journeys through rural Romania on a quest for the gypsy singer whose music he discovered through his father. There is a warmth and humour to the storytelling which pushes this film way beyond being mere sentimental travelogue. Renoir

GODZILLA (PG)

The team which cooked up such blockbusters as *StarGate* and *Independence Day* is generally very adept at constructing enjoyable adventures with a B-movie taste for fun. Unfortunately, on this occasion, their light touch has deserted them. Empire Leicester Square

THE HORSE WHISPERER (PG)

Robert Redford's over-long and deeply indulgent film of Nicholas Evans's novel is a textbook lesson in the narcissistic allure of cinema. Redford plays a Montana farmer who specialises in equine psychology. He agrees to help New York magazine editor Kristin Scott Thomas whose daughter has been traumatised in a riding accident. ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels follows the lead of Quentin Tarantino but the film's defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card-game, falls into the former; but a dangerous old-school pro, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

LOST IN SPACE (PG)

Yet another cult 1960s television series to get an expensive makeover but the film-makers have remained faithful to the original tone. William Hurt stars as a frosty scientist who journeys with his family into space to save the Earth from environmental destruction.
Odeon West End

THE MAGIC SWORD: QUEST FOR CAMELOT (U)

The first full-length product of Warner's new animation division, this Arthurian adventure looks - and courtesy of the inevitable Celine Dion, sounds - even cheesier than the average Disney effort. But beneath the surface there's an edge of genuine weirdness that will keep parents entertained, if it doesn't frighten the children out of their wits. Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

METROLAND (18)

Seventies suburban morality tale in which Christian Bale plays a man festering somewhere in the commuter belt when his oldest friend thinks that he ought to be out having fun. There are some endearing moments but, on the whole, director Philip Saville shows a dispiriting lack of ambition. Virgin Trocadero

MR NICE GUY (15)

This largely disappointing addition to Jackie Chan's oeuvre has its moments - a fight scene on a construction site is a particular delight. But the combination of comedy and adventure doesn't gel; it may be the first Chan film that wouldn't even look good if you were plastered.
Virgin Trocadero

THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (15)

Romantic comedy in which Paul Rudd confounds his flatmate Jennifer Aniston's dreams of wedding vows and joint burial plots by being gay.
West End: Odeon Mezzanine

THE PROPOSITION (13)

Dismal period drama in which feminist writer Madeleine Stowe and priest Keanu Reeves become entangled after she discovers her fat-cat husband (William Hurt) is unable to father a child. Salacious tosh. ABC Pantom Street

THE REAL HOWARD SPITZ (PG)

The *Real Howard Spitz*, a sunny comedy about a children's writer (Kelsey Grammer, aka Frasier) who hates children, is director Vadim Jean's most likeable work. Originally may be thin on the ground but the direction is breezy and Grammer has a lovely, grouchy demeanour. UCI Whiteleys

THE SPANISH PRISONER (PG)

David Mamet's intricate little thriller is a playful exercise in twisting a plot until it locks; there is a scientific detachment about the way he explores every permutation of his Kafkaesque scenario, though the movie is also slyly funny. Barbican Screen, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End

THE X-FILES (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

ZERO EFFECT (15)

Pleasant thriller starring Bill Pullman as Daryl Zero, the world's greatest private investigator, a drop-out who subsists on tuna fish, Tab and amphetamines, pulling on reserves of wit and ingenuity when the time comes to crack a new case. Ultimately the film feels a little shallow and self-conscious, but it puts a smile on your face for most of its duration. Warner Village West End

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0171-435 9772) @ Baker Street
Psycho 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
The X-Files 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm

ABC PANTOM STREET (0171-930 0531) @ Piccadilly
Circus The Big Lebowski 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
Jackie Brown 1.30pm, 4.40pm, 7.45pm
Live Flesh 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm
The Proposition 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-437 3561) @ Piccadilly
Circus Lolita 2.05pm, 5.05pm, 8pm
Love and Death On Long Island 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0171-436 6279) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road
Hana-Bi 1.15pm, 3.45pm
The X-Files 1.50pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0171-435 9772) @ Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus
Le Bossu 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
The Daytrippers 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm
Deconstructing Harry 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
La Grande Illusion 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm
Nurt & Courtney 8.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0171-636 6148) @ Tottenham Court Road
The Horse Whisperer 1.05pm, 4.45pm, 8.20pm
The Last Days Of Disco 1.25pm, 4.10pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-382 7000) @ Moorgate/Barbican
The Horse Whisperer 5.30pm, 8.30pm
The Spanish Prisoner 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square
The Horse Whisperer 1.05pm, 4.25pm, 7.50pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 2242) @ Clapham Common
The Horse Whisperer 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.30pm
The Last Days Of Disco 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm
The X-Files 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) @ Green Park
Le Bossu 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) @ Elephant & Castle
Dr. Dolittle 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm
Species II 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0171-437 1234) @ Leicester Square
Godzilla 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm
Species II 1pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.20pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 0403) @ Notting Hill Gate
The Spanish Prisoner 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-907018) @ Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith
The Horse Whisperer 1.20pm, 4.50pm, 8.15pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm
Species II 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm
The X-Files 12.15pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm

METRO (0171-437 0757) @ Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square
Latin American Film Festival phone for details

CURZON MINEMA (0171-369 1723) @ Knightsbridge
Hana-Bi 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill Gate
The Horse Whisperer 1.15pm, 4.35pm, 8pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (0181-315 4229) @ Camden Town

Armageddon 8.15pm
The Daytrippers 12.20pm
The Horse Whisperer 12.40pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm
The Last Days Of Disco 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.50pm, 2.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
The Spanish Prisoner 12.00pm, 2.50pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm, 12.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.45pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (0181-315 4212) @ Piccadilly Circus
The X-Files 2pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (0181-315 4214) @ High Street Kensington
Armageddon 5.10pm, 8.35pm
Dr. Dolittle 12.50pm, 3pm
He Got Game 12.15pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 9.15pm
The Horse Whisperer 1.25pm, 5.05pm, 8.45pm
The Last Days Of Disco 1.20pm, 4.05pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm
The Little Mermaid 11.40am
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.40pm
The X-Files 12.45pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (0181-315 4215) @ Leicester Square
The Horse Whisperer 12.50pm, 4.15pm, 7.50pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0181-315 4216) @ Marble Arch
Armageddon 2.05pm, 5.25pm, 8.45pm
The Horse Whisperer 1.15pm, 5.05pm, 8.40pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.15pm, 3.25pm, 6.55pm, 9.15pm
Species II 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.55pm
The X-Files 12.20pm, 3pm, 6pm, 8.55pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (0181-315 4215) @ Leicester Square
Eve's Bayou 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm
The Object Of My Affection 1.35pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
Sex Days, Seven Nights 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
Titanic 12.05pm, 3.45pm, 7.25pm
The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (0181-315 4220) @ Swiss Cottage
Armageddon 2pm, 5pm, 8pm
The Last Days Of Disco 1.25pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm
The Horse Whisperer 12.30pm, 4.05pm, 7.45pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.45pm
The Spanish Prisoner 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm
The X-Files 12.25pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.55pm

ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) @ Leicester Square
Lost In Space 1.20pm, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm
The X-Files 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm

PHOENIX CINEMA (0181-444 6789) @ East Finchley
The Spanish Prisoner 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 9pm

PLAZA (0171-437 1234) @ Piccadilly Circus
East Croydon 1.10pm, 4.45pm, 8pm
Eve's Bayou 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm
The Spanish Prisoner 1.20pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm
Titanic 8.35pm
The Wedding Singer 6.50pm
Zero Effect 1.35pm, 4.15pm, 9.30pm

RENOIR (0171-437 8402) @ Russell Square
Gadjo Dilo 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm
Hands (aka Palms) 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm

RIO CINEMA (0171-254 6677) @ Dalton Kingsland
The Last Days Of Disco 6.15pm, 8.50pm
Sliding Doors 2.30pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-737 2121/733 2229) @ Brington He Got Game 12.50pm, 3.35pm, 6.20pm, 9pm
The Horse Whisperer 1.45pm, 5.10pm, 8.30pm
The Last Days Of Disco 1.15pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 9.05pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 7.05pm, 9.25pm
Piafette 12.30pm
The Spanish Prisoner 1.40pm, 4.05pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-436 0038) @ Baker Street
The Horse Whisperer 3.05pm, 7.45pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 3.25pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) @ Angel

Highbury & Islington
The Spanish Prisoner 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3366) @ Belsize Park
The Land Girls 1.45pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm

UCI WHITELEYS (0171-792 3332) @ Bayswater
Armageddon 2.10pm, 5.30pm, 8.50pm
Dr. Dolittle 12.00pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm
The Horse Whisperer 12.35pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm
Lost In Space 8.15pm
The X-Files 12.20pm, 3.15pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm

BECKENHAM (0870 9020412) @ Beckenham Junction
Armageddon phone for times
Dr. Dolittle phone for times
The Horse Whisperer 2.20pm, 7.45pm
Species II 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
The X-Files phone for times

BEXLEYHEATH (0181-303 1550) @ Bexleyheath
Armageddon 11.45am, 2.50pm, 5pm, 6pm, 8pm, 9.10pm
Barney's Great Adventure 11.15am, 1pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm, 12.10pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8pm, 10pm
Godzilla 11.55am, 3pm, 6.05pm, 9.05pm
The Horse Whisperer 11.30am, 2.45pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm
Kareeb 3.55pm
The Little Mermaid 12.00pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.00pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm, 9.40pm
Lost In Space 12.45pm, 3.40pm, 6.55pm, 9.40pm
The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 11am
Maharaja 12.00pm, 3.15pm, 6.30pm, 9.45pm
Mr Nice Guy 9.30pm
Pyaar To Hona Hi Tha 3pm, 9.10pm
Species II 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm
The X-Files 11.30am, 1.50pm, 4.30pm, 7.05pm, 9.45pm

BROMLEY (0181-315 4211) @ Bromley North/Bromley South
Armageddon 8.10pm
Dr. Dolittle 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm
The Horse Whisperer 12.30pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm
The Little Mermaid 12.15pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.05pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm
The X-Files 2.40pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm

CATFORD (0181-698 3306) @ Catford Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 2.15pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Species II 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

CROYDON (0181-253 1030) @ Croydon
Croydon West/East
The Horse Whisperer 2.15pm, 5.30pm, 8.45pm

FAIRFIELD HALLS (0181-688 9291) @ East Croydon
Girls' Night Out 7.30pm

SAFARI (0181-688 3422) @ West Croydon
The Avengers 4.50pm
Dill Se 8.30pm
Dr. Dolittle 4.50pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.30pm, 4pm, 7.35pm
The X-Files 8.30pm
The X-Files 4.50pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) @ East Croydon
Armageddon 2.05pm, 5.20pm, 8.40pm
Dr. Dolittle 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
The Horse Whisperer 1.10pm, 4.50pm, 8.20pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm
Lost In Space 12.20pm, 3.05pm, 6pm, 8.50pm
Species II 12.00pm, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm
The X-Files 1.20pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.50pm

DAGENHAM (0181-592 2020) @ Dagenham Heathway
Armageddon 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.50pm, 8.40pm
Dr. Dolittle 1.10pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm
Godzilla 1.55pm, 4.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.50pm
The Horse Whisperer 2.15pm, 5.30pm, 8.40pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.45am, 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm
Lost In Space 12.40pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm
Species II 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.50pm
The X-Files 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm

BARKING (0181-507 8444) @ Barking Aragon Road
Armageddon

WEST END

41

WEDNESDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

RICHARD HOGGART, writing in this paper last Saturday, mused over the vexed question of what Englishness is - whether, indeed, there is such a thing as an English identity. One conclusion he came to was that he would class himself a Yorkshireman first, an Englishman second. The theme is picked up in tonight's edition of Inside Out (8pm R4). Lesley Riddoch (right) travels to



ROBERT HANES

world which attempts to reconcile our experience of the world's richness with the stark ontology of modern science. In this programme, he talks about his hero, David Hume, who he thinks laid the foundations for a modern scientific philosophy. (R) 10.05 Mandelstam. String Quartet No 2 in A minor, Op 13. Sorrel Quartet. 10.45 Viewing the Century - Manuel Castells. Another chance to hear the series in which leading commentators on the century give their views on the landmark events that have changed the way we think. In the first programme, Manuel Castells, author of *The Information Age* and Professor of Sociology and City and Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley, talks to Peter Conrad about the wave of libertarianism in the 1980s, the creation and collapse of Communism, and the impact of the technological revolution on how we pass information around the globe. (R) 11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Proms Composers of the Week: Elgar and Walton. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

Radio 4 (92.4-94.6MHz FM) 6.00 Today. 9.00 Midweek. 9.45 The Owl's Watchsong. 10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour. 11.00 NEWS; Crimscapes. (R) 11.30 Punctures. 12.00 NEWS; You and Yours. 12.57 Weather. 1.00 The World at One.

13.00 NEWS; The Archers. 2.00 NEWS; The Archers. 2.15 Play: Roy and Daisy. (R) 3.00 NEWS; Gardeners' Question Time. 3.30 Blind Men on the Rampage. (R) 3.45 The Lyrical Ballads. 4.00 NEWS; All in the Mind. 4.30 Thinking Allowed. 5.00 PM. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 Dan and Nick: the Widebeest Years. 7.00 NEWS; The Archers. 7.25 Front Row: Mark Lawson presents arts news, reviews and debates. 7.45 Dear Jayne Brown. 'End of Innocence' by Nick Fisher. Voices from the past call Jayne back to a final reckoning and reveal crucial clues to the identity of her namesake correspondent. With Jill Balcon, Stella Gonet, Angela Plesance and Valerie Samur. Director Celia de Wolff (3/5). 8.00 NEWS; Inside Out. English regional identity comes under the spotlight in tonight's debate from the Council Chambers in Newcastle. Following Scottish and Welsh devolution, Lesley Riddoch asks if there is any demand for regional governments for England. See *Pick of the Day*. 8.45 Tonight's Homework. Hwee Tan grew up in Singapore, and all she remembers about it is school, school and more school. As the joke goes, 'How do you know your parents are Asian?' When the only English words they know are

Oxford, Harvard and MIT. 9.00 NEWS; Enigmas: The Universe. 'Far Horizons'. Leo Enright journeys to the outer planets courtesy of some of the most sophisticated space hardware ever built. 9.30 Midweek. Lively conversation with Libby Purves and guests. 10.00 The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Potato Gatherers. Gerard McSorley reads the third of five short stories by Brian Field. Philly has taken a day off school to earn his first wage and soon discovers that it is harder work than he expected. 11.00 Hearing with Hegley. Post John Hargreaves, presenting a microphone and a book of verse. With Nigel Piper and the Popicians. 11.15 The Golf Show. 11.30 The Muses. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Tales from Ovid. (R) 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

Radio 4 LW (98.1kHz) 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. **Radio 5 Live** (93.3, 95.9kHz MW) 6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Nicky Campbell. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Nationwide. 7.00 News Extra. 7.30 Football Night. Ian Payne presents coverage of the night's live action, including Chelsea vs Arsenal, Manchester United vs Charlton, Liverpool vs Coventry and Tottenham vs Blackburn in the Premiership, as well as news of the night's league games. 10.00 Littlejohn. Talk about the night's live football action and the latest stories with Richard Littlejohn on 0500 909093. 11.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson. Including a late news briefing at 11.00, and at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight and a topical late-night discussion. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

Classic FM (102.1MHz FM) 6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Cullum. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 8.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

Virgin Radio (125.1, 167-125.0kHz MW 105.8MHz FM) 6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Bobby Hain. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Mark Forrest. FM only. Paul Coyte from 6.45. 7.30 Paul Coyte. 10.00 Mark Forrest. 1.00 Peter Poutton. 4.30 - 6.30 Jeremy Clark.

World Service (98.1kHz LW) 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 1.45 Britain Today. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 Omnibus. 3.00 Newsday. 3.30 Meridian (Books). 4.00 World News. 4.05 World Business Report. 4.35 Sports Roundup. 4.50 - 7.00 The World Today.

Talk Radio 7.00 Bill O'Brien and Kirsty Young. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 11.00 Lorraine Kelly. 1.00 Anna Raeburn. 3.00 Tommy Boyd. 5.00 Peter Deeley. 7.00 Nick Abbot. 9.00 James White. 1.00 Ian Collins. 5.00 - 7.00 Early Show with Bill O'Brien.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

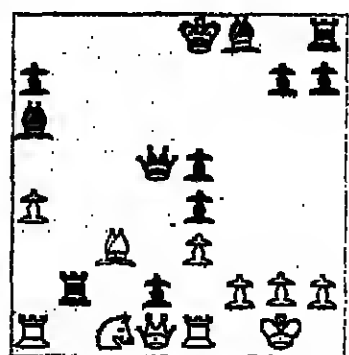
JON SPERLMAN

FOLLOWING JAN Timman's fine performance as Black in the first game against Gary Kasparov, as detailed yesterday, we might have hoped that he would be able to keep up the good work with the white pieces. But it was not to be.

Generally, Kasparov plays the King's Indian against Timman but this time he surprised the Dutchman with the Slav Defence. In an echo of yesterday's game, Black again snatched a pawn for some compensation. Again White's compensation turned out to be inadequate, but this time grossly so, and Kasparov was able not only to keep his material but also to seize both space and a burgeoning initiative which quickly gathered the whole point. This defeat as White leaves Timman and his seconds, Ulf Andersson and Ivan Sokolov, with plenty of work to do: though in a short match of just six games, I wouldn't be too surprised if Kasparov who has Yuri Dokholan as his second presents a moving target, rather than repeating the Slav in his next Black.

In the opening, 5 a4 is more usual to prevent... b5. With 8 Qc2, White's idea is to lure the black pawns forward, after which if he can capture the e4 pawn then he will have a structural advantage. He has to grant Black a temporary initiative; but in Kasparov's hands this became permanent.

15 Bb2? was bad, but the alternative, 15 Nd6 - Bxd6 16 Bxa6 Qxe5 17 N Qc5 18 Bxc6 dxe3 19 Kh1 0-0, leaves Black with massive compensation for the exchange. After the



excellent self-pin, 15... Ne4, Black seems already to be winning. In the diagram, White is scuppered by a back rank mate: if 24 Bxb2 dxe1+ 25 Qxe1 Bxb1 26 Qxb1 Qd1+ Timman showed his aesthetic sense by resigning, immediately after his opponent cashed.

White: Jan Timman
Black: Gary Kasparov
Prague (Game 2) 1998
Slav Defence
1 d4 d5 17 Nd2 f5
2 e4 c6 18 Re1 d3
3 Nf3 Nf6 19 Nxb3 c5
4 Ne3 dxe1 20 Bb2 fxe4
5 e3 b5 21 Rxe4 fxe4
6 a4 b4 22 Nc1 Rxb2
7 Nb1 Ba6 23 Bc1 d2
8 Qc2 b3 24 Rf1 Bx1 (see diagram)
9 Qd1 e6 25 Bxb2 Bc4
10 Be2 c5 26 Ne2 Bb1
11 0-0 Ne6 27 Nd3 Bxd1
12 Na3 Nc7 28 Nxd5 Bb3
17 N Qc5 18 Bxc6 dxe3 19 Kh1 0-0
15 Bb2? 16 Nxd6 30 Nd1 0-0-1
16 Nxc6 Rxc6

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

LEARN FROM Stars by Mark Horton and Tony Sowter (Batsford, 9.99) is not an introduction to astrology but a collection of intriguing deals, old and new. Many are familiar and I certainly remember this hand, having watched it live (well, on Bridgerama) in 1990 and been mildly amused by the commentator's remarks. You will appreciate that we could see all four hands.

North opened One Club. East overcalled with One Heart, and South tried 2 No-trumps. North raised to game and West, Bobby Goldman of America, led ♠9 and South led ♠A as well as his two winning hearts but, reasoned declarer, perhaps there was the outside chance of being able to play the clubs for five tricks.

After winning the third heart lead, declarer crossed to dummy with a spade and led ♠Q. East covered with the king but, under the ace, Goldman dropped the jack! 'Routine!' said the commentator. 'Quite right if his partner had started with ♠K 10, but now he has just given away an overtrick.'

Not so at all. Convinced that East must have started with ♠K 9 4, declarer crossed to dummy with another top spade and finessed ♠8. West won unexpectedly with his nine and got off lead with a spade. South now had only eight winners and, when he finally played on diamonds, he was annoyed to find that it was West who held ♠A all the time. What was worse, West now cashed the lovely ♠6 for the setting trick.

Love all; dealer North
North
♠AKK
♥772
♦KQ6
♣Q7653
West East
♠6432 ♠975
♥986 ♥KQJ54
♦A1075 ♦J32
♣J9 ♣4
South
♠QJ10
♥A103
♦984
♣A1082

Bridge News
The final results of the World Championships in Lille are as follows:
The Vivendi Rosenblum cup was won by Italy (Lanzarotti, Versace, Senta, Angelini, Lauria & Buratti). The Louis Vuitton McConnell Cup went to Austria (Sylvia Terrano, Maria Erhart, Doris Fischer, Terri Weiglrich). The Societe Generale Open Pairs went to Michael Kwiecien and Jaros Puzek of Poland; the Louis Vuitton Women's Pairs was won by Jill Meyers and Shawn Quinn, US. The most spectacular win was in the Senior Pairs by Irvine Gordon and Boris Schapiro of Great Britain. Boris first won a world championship (unofficial) 60 years ago; he is now 89. The partnership led throughout, winning by a large margin.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

TONIGHT'S MATCH, Chelsea vs Arsenal (7.30pm Sky Sports 1), features two of the most glamorous club teams in the world. Chelsea boasts World Cup winner Marcel Desailly, while Arsenal fields Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira from that same victorious side, as well as Denis Bergkamp and Marc Overmars from the attractive Dutch national 11. The attitudes of both the teams and their continental coaches - Gianluca

Viali for Chelsea and Arsenal's Arsene Wenger (right) - should guarantee an exciting match. If your nerves are frayed after the football, take pains to avoid North by Northwest (8pm TNT). Alfred Hitchcock's 1959 comic thriller Cary Grant excels as the happy-go-lucky plumed who finds himself plunged into a Kafkaesque nightmare of abduction, conspiracy and confused identity. JAMES RAMPTON



or (010444). 10.30 Wonders of Weather (025493). 11.00 Outlines (700093). 12.00 Flightline (095132). 12.30 Top Marques (053199). 1.00 Worlds Biggest Oil Platform (079495). 2.00 Close. **Sky 1** 8.00 Tailcoat Teenage Alien Fighters from Beverly Hills (0599). 8.30 Second (0599). 9.00 Die Hard (0599). 9.30 The Simpsons (7003). 10.00 Games World (254473). 10.30 Games World (254495). 10.30 Just Kid (0599). 11.00 The New Adventures of Superman (0599). 12.00 Married with Children (0599). 12.30 The Special K Collection (0599). 1.00 The Special K Collection (0599). 1.30 Sally Jessy Raphael (0599). 2.00 Jerry Jones (0599). 3.00 The Special K Collection (0599). 4.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (0599). 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (0599). 5.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (0599). 6.00 Married with Children (0599). 6.30 The Simpsons (0599). 7.00 The Simpsons (0599). 7.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (0599). 8.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (0599). 8.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (0599). 9.00 Star Trek: 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THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW
The Independent 9 September 1998